

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS

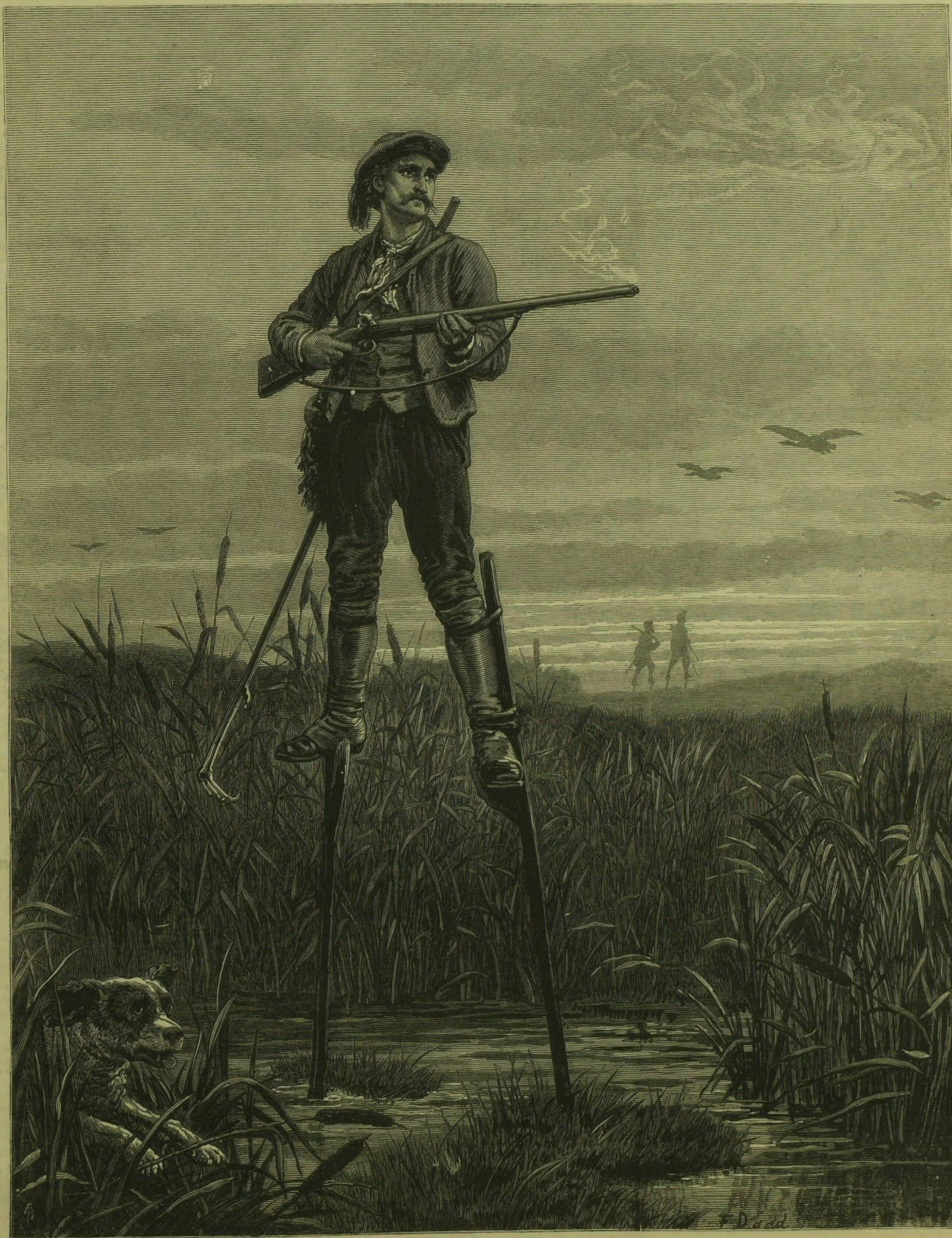


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No. 2121.—VOL. LXXVI.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 1880.

WITH TWO SUPPLEMENTS } **SIXPENCE.**
By Post, 6^d.



A SPORTSMAN OF THE LANDES (FRANCE).—SEE PAGE 75.

BIRTHS.

On the 15th inst., at Kingley, Alcester, Lady Ernest Seymour, of a son.
On the 18th inst., at Bossall Hall, York, the Lady Adelaide Dawnay, of a daughter.
On the 18th inst., at 13, Connaught-place, W., the Lady Mary Dashwood, of a son.
On the 18th inst., at Bath House, Piccadilly, the Lady Ashburton, of a son.
On the 13th inst., at 5A, Cork-street, W., Lady Winton, of a daughter.
On Christmas Day, 1879, at Craighton, Jamaica, the wife of the Hon. C. Ribton Curran, Justice of the Supreme Court, of a daughter.
On the 18th inst., at Thornbury House, Windsor, the Lady Mary Shelley, of a son.
On Dec. 2, at Bishopscourt, Auckland, New Zealand, the wife of the Bishop of Auckland, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

On the 14th inst., at St. Matthias's, South Kensington, by the Very Rev. the Dean of Westminster and the Bishop of Dover, William Scott, Esq., only son of the late General Scott and Hon. Mrs. Scott, of Thorpe, Surrey, to Ursula Katherine, eldest daughter of Major-General and Hon. Mrs. Lane Fox.
On the 20th inst., at All Saints', Margaret-street, Robert John Jocelyn Stewart, Major 66th (the Berkshire) Regiment, to Adeline, second daughter of the late Thomas Southey, Esq., of Balmore Caversham, Oxon.
On the 15th inst., at St. Stephen's, Westbourne Park, W., by the Rev. J. Alexander Jacob, Ernest Claude Lee, youngest son of the late George Lee, Esq., to Sophia Katherine Anne, only daughter of Horace B. Lonsdale, Esq. No cards.

DEATHS.

On the 12th inst., Elias H. Thompson, J.P., of Slieve-na Faeilte, White-abbey, in the county of Antrim, Ireland, aged 58 years.
At Birkenhead, Jean May Hamilton, aged 63, and Bessie Campbell, aged 53 years, the dearly-loved and only daughters of Alex. and Annie Sinclair, Jeannie, born Sunday, June 8, 1873; died Saturday, Dec. 13, 1879; Betty, born Sunday, June 7, 1874; died Saturday, Dec. 20, 1879.
On the 16th inst., at Westmoreland-road, Bayswater, after a short illness, Lady Brady, widow of the late Sir Francis Brady, formerly Chief Justice of Newfoundland.
On the 15th inst., at Edinview, St. Andrew's, the Lady Charlotte Elliot, wife of Frederick Boileau Elliot.
On Wednesday, the 14th inst., after a long and painful illness, borne with unflinching resignation, Margaret Lukis, second daughter of M. A. Bazille Corbin, F.R.C.S., Saumarez-street, Guernsey. R.I.P.

* * The charge for the insertion of Births, Marriages, or Deaths is Five Shillings for each announcement.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK ENDING JANUARY 31.

SUNDAY, JAN. 25.	
Septuagesima, Conversion of St. Paul.	Westminster Abbey, 10 a.m., Rev. Canon Spence, Vicar of St. Pancras; 3 p.m., Rev. Canon Farrar.
Morning Lessons: Gen. i. and ii. 1-4; Rev. xxi. 1-9 (or Isaiah xlii. 1-13; Gal. i. 11). Evening Lessons: Gen. ii. 4 or Job xxxviii.; Rev. xxi. 1-9 (or Jer. i. 1-11; Acts xxvi. 1-21).	St. James's, noon, Rev. W. Rogers. Whitehall, 11 a.m., Rev. W. F. Erskine Knollys; 3 p.m., Rev. Francis Garden, Sub-Dean of the Chapels Royal.
Marriage of the Princess Royal to the Crown Prince of Prussia, 1858.	Savoy, 11.30 a.m., Rev. Henry White, the Chaplain; 7 p.m., Rev. R. W. Forrest, Vicar of St. Jude's, South Kensington.
St. Paul's Cathedral, 10.30 a.m., Rev. Prebendary Daniel Wilson; 3.15 p.m., Rev. Canon Stubbs; 7 p.m., Rev. Canon Gregory.	Temple Church, 11 a.m., uncertain; 3 p.m., Rev. A. Ainger, the Reader.
MONDAY, JAN. 26.	
London Orphan Asylum, Watford, elections.	Institute of British Architects, 8 p.m. (Mr. Thomas Porter on Architectural Competitions).
London Institution, 5 p.m. (Mr. E. B. Taylor on the History of Inventions).	Royal Academy, 8 p.m. (Mr. Britton Riviere on Truth in Art in its Relation to the Old Masters and the Student's own Character).
Medical Society, 8.30 p.m.	Popular Concert, St. James's Hall, 8.
Institute of Actuaries, 7 p.m.	English Dialect Society, annual meeting, Free Library, Manchester, noon.
Geographical Society, 8.30 p.m. (Dr. Emil Holub on a Journey through Central South Africa from the Diamond Fields to the Upper Zambesi).	
TUESDAY, JAN. 27.	
Full Moon, 10.12 a.m.	West London Scientific Association, 8 p.m.
Royal Institution, 3 p.m. (Professor Schäfer on the Physiology of Muscle).	Medical and Chirurgical Society, 8.30 p.m.
Conference on Thrift, Mansion House, 3 p.m.	Institution of Civil Engineers, 8 p.m. (Discussion on Fixed and Movable Weirs).
Gresham Lectures, 6 p.m. (Dr. J. T. Abdy on Law, and three following days).	Anthropological Society, 8 p.m., anniversary.
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 28.	
German Hospital, Dalston, general court, City Ten-mus Hotel, 1.30.	Royal Society of Literature, 8 p.m. (Dr. C. M. Ingleby on the Spelling-Reform Dead-Book).
Mansion House, 3 p.m., meeting respecting a new Arctic Expedition.	Society of Telegraph Engineers, 8 p.m.
Hunterian Society, 8 p.m.	Society of Arts, 8 p.m. (Mr. William Paul on the Future of Epping Forest).
Dental Surgery Association, 8.30 p.m., election of council, &c.	
THURSDAY, JAN. 29.	
Orphan Working School, elections, Cannon-street Hotel, noon.	Philosophical Club, 6.30 p.m.
Royal Institution, 3 p.m. (Professor Dewar on Recent Chemical Progress).	Society of Antiquaries, 8.30 p.m.
London Institution, 7 p.m. (Mr. H. B. Wheatley on two Centuries of Shakespearean Acting).	Royal Society, 8.30 p.m.
	Royal Academy, 8 p.m. (Mr. E. M. Barry on Architectural Ornament).
	Society for the Fine Arts, 8 p.m. (Mr. J. W. Bradley on Book Decoration).
FRIDAY, JAN. 30.	
Institute of Bankers, 6 p.m.	Architectural Association, 7.30 p.m. (Mr. W. H. Brewer on the Domestic and Civil Architecture of Germany, 1500-1700).
City of London College, 6 p.m. (Dr. N. Heinemann on Political Economy—Wages).	Royal Institution, 8 p.m. (Professor John Marshall on the Proportions of the Human Figure, 9 p.m.).
Society of Arts, Indian section, 8 p.m. (Colonel G. B. Maleson on Herat).	
SATURDAY, JAN. 31.	
Partridge and Pheasant Shooting ends. Salmon-Fishing begins.	Royal Institution, 3 p.m. (Professor Rupert Jones on Coal).
Popular Concert, St. James's Hall, 3 p.m.	

THE WEATHER.

RESULTS OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS AT THE KEY OBSERVATORY OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY.

Lat. 51° 28' 6" N.; Long. 0° 18' 47" W. Height above Sea, 34 feet.

DAY.	DAILY MEANS OF					THERMOM.		WIND.		General Direction.	Movement in 24 hours, read at 10 a.m. next morning.	Rain in 24 hours, read at 10 a.m. next morning.
	Barometer Corrected.	Temperature of the Air.	Dew Point.	Relative Humidity.	Amount of Cloud.	Maximum, read at 10 p.m.	Minimum, read at 10 a.m.					
January	Inches.	°	°	°	0-10	°	°				Miles.	In.
	11 30.535	34.3	28.3	81	8	39.1	33.4	ENE. E.	430	0.000		
	12 30.560	33.2	27.2	81	6	38.5	30.7	E. ENE.	207	0.000		
	13 30.420	32.4	29.2	89	10	34.8	29.3	WNE. E. NE.	111	0.105		
	14 30.311	30.6	25.1	82	10	35.3	29.6	N. NNW. NW.	167	0.000		
	15 30.230	32.3	26.7	92	6	36.0	31.8	W. SW.	184	0.070		
	16 29.975	36.9	36.3	97	10	39.4	34.2	SW. WSW. W.	144	0.210		
	17 30.017	33.4	27.1	81	7	38.9	31.2	NNE. N. NW.	153	0.000		

* Snow.

† Snow and rain.

The following are the readings of the meteorological instruments for the above days, in order, at ten o'clock, a.m.:

Barometer (in inches) corrected	30.544	30.531	30.406	30.327	30.305	30.033	30.063
Temperature of Air	34.5	33.7	31.6	30.3	32.1	36.2	34.8
Temperature of Evaporation	34.5	32.1	30.3	28.7	31.0	35.8	32.6
Direction of Wind	ENE.	E.	ENE.	NW.	W.	WSW.	NE.

TIMES OF HIGH WATER AT LONDON BRIDGE FOR THE WEEK ENDING JANUARY 31.

Sunday.		Monday.		Tuesday.		Wednesday.		Thursday.		Friday.		Saturday.	
h	m	h	m	h	m	h	m	h	m	h	m	h	m
0	37	1	21	2	15	3	22	4	13	5	46	6	24

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upon which occasion he will have the valuable co-operation and assistance of the undermentioned Distinguished Artists, all of whom appear with the kind sanction of their respective managers:

MR. JOHN RYDER. MR. T. SWINBOURNE. MR. CHARLES WARNER. MR. CHARLES HARCOURT. MR. HORACE WIGAN. MR. JAMES FERNANDEZ. MR. EDWARD TERRY. MR. LIONEL BROUGH. MR. GEORGE W. ANSON. MR. W. J. HILL. MR. GEORGE HONEY. MR. F. W. IRISH. MR. R. SOUTAL. MR. EDWARD RIGHTON. MR. J. G. TAYLOR. MR. ARTHUR WILLIAMS. MR. HARRY PAYNE. Miss E. FARREN. Miss FLORENCE ST. JOHN.	Miss CONSTANCE LOSEBY. Mme. HUYLER CLUTSAM. (Primo Contralto). Miss EMILY DUNCAN. Miss ALMA STANLEY. Miss MARIE DE GREY. Miss SALLIE TULNER. Miss RUSSELL. Monsieur MARIUS. MR. HOWARD PAUL. MR. HARRY PAULTON. MR. HARRY COX. MR. GEORGE CONQUEST. MR. W. JAMES. MR. FRANK DOBELL. Miss MINNIE INCH. MR. E. J. GEORGE. MR. WALTER JOYCE.
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NOW READY,

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(FROM JULY TO DECEMBER, 1879.)

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THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

LONDON: SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 1880.

The political atmosphere, of this part of the world at least, does not get clearer as the last Session of the present Parliament comes closer to us. There is a thickness, a prevailing foginess, in it which corresponds but too truly with that of Nature for some time past. No sunshine illuminates it, or, if it do, it is at long intervals only and for brief periods. We are shut in, as it were, by persistent mists. Our forecasts, involuntarily taken, have no distance in them. We walk about like men who have forgotten their own neighbourhood. Everything we meet is a surprise to us, and our suspicions are apt to get the upper hand of our trust. Perhaps this is usually the case in the frontier province of a new Session. Ministers, of what-

ever Administration, are invariably reticent respecting their intended measures till the normal time arrives for disclosing them. There are good reasons for refusing to gratify public curiosity prematurely. A half-revealed secret is often more dangerous than a full and detailed exposition of it. The present Cabinet, therefore, cannot be fairly blamed for conforming to custom in this respect; nor can a speculating public be severely censured for peering as far as is possible into the uncertainties of the future. If, when Parliament meet, what is now mysterious should be cleared up by adequate information; if the country be not, in the mean time, committed to heavier responsibilities than those at present devolving upon it; if, when the Government stands face to face with the legitimate Representatives of the Nation, it should be frank and outspoken in the disclosure of its real purposes; none will have to complain of the scant and imperfect light which temporarily preceded the perfect day.

One rumour that has been afoot during the latter part of this gloaming period will, we fervently hope, vanish from the land as soon as the region of fuller light has been reached. It has been intimated that the authorities of India contemplate the creation of a "Frontier Province" in Afghanistan, to include portions of the Khyber and the Kuram valleys, mentioned in the Treaty of Gundamuk, with parts of Scinde and the Indus for an Eastern boundary. The British Public, we believe, feel an extreme aversion from any increase of our territorial responsibilities, more especially in connection with the Indian Empire. To occupy, in a military sense, is one thing—to annex is another. Prematureness in the latter case is a political blunder under any circumstances. It would be worse than a blunder in the present hostile state of the Afghan population. No account need be taken of the financial bearings of such an experiment, even if Mr. Stanhope's roseate representation of the condition and prospects of Indian finance should be ultimately verified. There are political considerations of no mean importance which militate against it. There are questions of national integrity and honour which would be thereby touched and brought into discussion. There are even constitutional principles which, in the manner of making the experiment, might be compromised, and there is the reputation of Great Britain, before the civilised world, which ought to be kept untarnished. The rumour, however, to which we allude is as yet unauthenticated. Parliament will, no doubt, ascertain the basis, if any there be, upon which it rests. As it has come like a shadow, so, we trust, it may depart. The Government which is looking forward to an approaching General Election cannot afford to give free rein to proconsular authority in any part of her Majesty's dominions.

There is another matter which will doubtless be discussed at an early period of the Session. It relates to the brief quarrel between Sir Henry Layard and the Porte. That quarrel, as our readers know, has been made up, and reconciliation, so far as diplomacy is concerned, has been effected. The demands of the British Ambassador have been complied with, and the relations of friendship between her Majesty and the Sultan have been fully restored. But the triumph of her Ambassador is but nominal, after all. The Porte has boldly and dexterously taken the sting out of it. In a Note to Sir Henry Layard it argues that the proceedings of Dr. Koeller justified the seizure of his papers, which were only returned to him out of regard for England, and states that Ahmed Tewfik deserved the punishment awarded to him, in conformity with the religious laws of the country, and was liberated only by the clemency of the Sultan. "Of course," we are tempted to exclaim, what else could we reasonably expect? The primordial principles of the Ottoman Empire are utterly antagonistic to religious liberty. They may be evaded here and there according to the necessity of the times; they may even seem to be abandoned; but they cannot be amalgamated with their contraries any more than oil can mix with water, or light blend with darkness. If we are to govern Turkey upon the principles of spiritual freedom we must first logically eliminate the Mohammedan element, and this we cannot do without conquest, which is alien to our policy. We may, as in the present instance, coerce the Porte, but we have no right to be surprised that the Porte should put its own interpretation upon the concessions extorted from it, and so deprive us of any advantage which it might have been supposed would have been gained by the establishment of a valid precedent. The late Missionary incident, taken in conjunction with others of a more purely political kind, throws a flood of light on what may be expected from Turkish "reforms." We seem to have forgotten the ancient maxim that "the tree is to be known by its fruit."

Returning to Home affairs, it may be observed that Parliament during its last Session will require a clear head and a vigorous will to guide its councils through the intricacies by which it will find itself beset. It is to be hoped that the example of 1879 will not be followed in 1880. No little waste of public time is sure to be the consequence of indecision in the plans of Ministers, or, perhaps we may more correctly say, in their Parliamentary tactics. There are many minor changes called for by different public interests which may be effected during the coming Session.

if prosecuted in accordance with reasonable methods. It is not to be anticipated that any heroic proposals will be introduced, at least with any view of placing them upon the Statute Book before the election of a new Parliament. Let but the business of the day be deftly done—as it certainly may be if seriously taken in hand—and the public will be less likely to grudge the omission of weightier matters from the Ministerial programme. As far as can be done, things have to be made tidy and set straight before the constituent bodies of the United Kingdom are formally faced.

THE COURT.

The Queen received with deep regret the intelligence of the sudden death of Prince Christian of Schleswig-Holstein's elder brother—the Duke Frederic of Schleswig-Holstein-Sonderburg-Augustenburg, which took place on the 14th inst. at Wiesbaden. The Duke was married to her Majesty's niece, Princess Adelaide of Hohenlohe-Langenburg. Prince Christian left Windsor yesterday week for Germany to attend the funeral of his brother at Primkenau, Silesia. The Court went into mourning on Sunday for a week. Princess Frederica of Hanover took leave of the Queen on Saturday last and left Osborne on her return to St. James's Palace. Prince Leopold accompanied her Royal Highness in the Queen's yacht *Alberta*, Captain Thomson, to Portsmouth, whence the Princess travelled in the Commander-in-Chief's saloon carriage by the Mid-Sussex line to London, and Prince Leopold returned to Osborne. Colonel the Right Hon. F. Stanley and the Rev. Canon Farrar dined with her Majesty. The Queen, Princess Beatrice, and Prince Leopold attended Divine service on Sunday, performed at Osborne by the Rev. Canon Farrar, D.D. Colonel the Right Hon. F. Stanley had an audience of her Majesty, and afterwards returned to London. The Queen's dinner party on Monday included Princess Beatrice, Prince Leopold, Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar, Lady Waterpark, the Hon. Lady Ponsonby, the Hon. Mary Lascelles, Admiral Ryder, Lord Charles Fitzroy, and Captain Edwards. Prince Leopold left Osborne on Tuesday for London. Her Majesty and Princess Beatrice have walked and driven out daily. The Hon. Mrs. Eliot, Vice-Admiral de Horsey, and Colonel Macpherson, commanding the 42nd Royal Highlanders at Parkhurst, have dined with the Queen. The Hon. Mary Lascelles has arrived as Maid of Honour in Waiting, and the Hon. Harriett Phipps has left Osborne.

Her Majesty has decorated Private William Jones, of the second battalion 24th Regiment, with the Victoria Cross for his gallantry at the defence of Rorke's Drift, where he, as an hospital orderly, assisted in the removal of the sick from the hospital building whilst it was being forced by the enemy.

We have authority for stating that the Queen has signified her intention of opening Parliament in person.

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES.

The Prince of Wales presided at an especial Grand Lodge of Freemasons held at the Freemason's Hall, on Saturday last for the purpose of appointing and investing the new Grand Secretary, Lieutenant-Colonel Shadwell H. Clerke. The Princess of Wales, with her daughters, attended Divine service on Sunday at St. Mary Magdalene's Church, Sandringham Park. The Prince, accompanied by Princess Louise of Lorne, went to the Globe Theatre on Monday evening. The Princess came to London on Tuesday from Sandringham. The Prince and Princess, accompanied by Princess Frederica of Hanover, went to an evening party given by Sir Coutts and Lady Lindsay at the Grosvenor Gallery. Princess Louise of Lorne, the Duke of Edinburgh, and Prince Leopold were present. On Wednesday evening the Prince and Princess, with the Duke of Edinburgh, Princess Louise (Marchioness of Lorne), and the Duke and Duchess of Connaught honoured the Court Theatre with their presence. The Princess and the other members of the Royal family in town took leave of Princess Louise of Lorne on Thursday before her departure for Canada.

The Duchess of Edinburgh, who has remained in attendance upon her mother, the Empress of Russia, at Cannes, went to Nice on Tuesday. The Duchess will accompany the Empress from Paris on her journey to St. Petersburg.

Princess Louise of Lorne has left for Canada. She was accompanied by the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Edinburgh to Liverpool.

The Duke of Cambridge entertained the Prince of Wales, Princess Louise of Lorne, and a small party at dinner on Saturday last at Gloucester House, Park-lane.

The christening of the son and heir of General Sir Francis Seymour, her Majesty's Master of the Ceremonies, took place on Tuesday at Kensington Palace. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. W. Crawford Bromhead, Chaplain in Ordinary to her Majesty's Household, Kensington Palace. Princess Louise of Lorne, sponsor, was represented by her Lady in Waiting, Lady Sophia Macnamara. The godfathers were the Rev. William Seymour and the Rev. Douglas Wickham, uncles of the child, who was christened Albert Victor Francis. The company present at the ceremony included only the Hon. and Rev. E. Carr Glyn, Vicar of St. Mary Abbot's, Kensington, and the immediate relatives of both families.

Lady Lindsay of Balcarres held a reception at the Grosvenor Gallery, New Bond-street, on Tuesday evening, to meet Princess Louise of Lorne. The invitations for the "at home" were for ten o'clock. Sir Coutts and Lady Lindsay received the Princess and the several other Royal guests on their arrival, and conducted them to the West Gallery, where a distinguished company was assembled.

Viscount and Viscountess Lewisham returned from their honeymoon on Saturday last. At Wolverhampton station they were met by the Earl of Dartmouth, who accompanied them to his seat at Patshull. The village was holding holiday, and the local volunteer force aided in the general rejoicings. In the evening presentations were made to the newly-married pair by the tenants and friends.

A fancy-dress ball was given on the 6th inst. by Admiral Sir Geoffrey and Lady Phipps Hornby, at the Admiralty House in Valetta, Malta, which was attended by a large number of the principal people in the island, naval, military, and civilian, and was a great success. Lady Borton held a reception at the palace on the 9th inst., which was numerously attended.

The annual ball of the Craven Hunt Club was held at the Mansion House at Newbury on the 15th inst., and was attended by a fashionable company, numbering 200.

MARRIAGES.

The marriage of the Right Rev. James Fraser, D.D., Bishop of Manchester, and Miss Agnes Ellen Frances Duncan, daughter of the late Mr. John Shute Duncan, of Weston, Bath, was solemnised, by special license, on the 15th inst.,

at St. Peter's Church, Cranley-gardens. The Bishop was attended by his Chaplain, the Rev. Hugh Pearson, Canon of Windsor, Rural Dean, and Vicar of Sonning, Berks; and the bridesmaid was Miss Frances Margaret Cardwell. The bride wore a dress of pale French grey satin, plainly trimmed with the same fabric, and bonnet of the same, from which depended a large tulle veil. The Dean of Westminster performed the ceremony, the bride being given away by her cousin, Mr. Welch. After the breakfast at Mr. Cardwell's residence in Cromwell-place, South Kensington, the Bishop and his bride left for Devonshire for the honeymoon.

The marriage of Mr. Strachey, eldest son of Sir Edward Strachey, Bart., of Sutton Court, Somerset, with Miss Constance Braham, daughter of Mr. Charles Braham, and niece of the late Countess Frances Waldegrave, was celebrated on Saturday last at Cannes. The civil marriage was first performed at the British Consulate, and the religious ceremony followed at St. Paul's Church. The bride, who was attended by Miss Strachey, sister of the bridegroom, wore a princess dress of white satin and white brocade, with flounces of old Venetian point, and over a wreath of real orange-blossom a long tulle veil and diamond ornaments. Miss Strachey (the bridesmaid) was dressed in white Indian muslin, over white satin, and white satin tippet and muff trimmed with swansdown; a Sir Joshua Reynolds hat, and black shoes, with red bows and heels. The bride was given away by her uncle, Lord Carlingford, Mr. St. Loe Strachey officiated as best man to his brother. The bride was accompanied by Lord Carlingford and her father, Mr. Charles Braham, and the bridegroom by Sir Edward and Lady Strachey, Mr. St. Loe Strachey, and Mr. Henry Strachey. The wedding breakfast was given by Lord Carlingford at his hotel, Le Prince des Galles, after which the newly-married couple drove to Nice, en route for Mentone. The bride's costume de voyage consisted of a skirt and gilet of striped material, black satin tunic trimmed with black lace, a Louis Quatorze jacket with steel buttons, black hat and feathers, and large bunch of red roses.

A marriage is arranged between Mr. George Clifford, eldest son of Sir Charles Clifford, and Miss Mary Lawson, eldest daughter of Sir John Lawson, Bart.

THE ROYAL BUCKHOUNDS.

We present a series of Illustrations, from Sketches drawn by our own Artist, of the Kennels at Ascot Heath, and the noble pack of hounds belonging to her Majesty the Queen, forming an appendage to the Royal household. The pastime of hunting fallow deer brought from the Royal park or from neighbouring demesnes, to be let out of a closed cart and to be pursued and recaptured by the huntsmen, with the aid of this pack of hounds, is an institution of historical antiquity. It may not bear comparison, perhaps, with the real stag-hunt, the chase of the wild red deer, still to be witnessed on Exmoor; but it gives an opportunity for brisk riding across country, and is a diversion that affords pleasure to large numbers of people dwelling within reach of the ordinary places of meeting. The Earl of Hardwicke, holding office as Master of the Royal Buckhounds, has the direction of this establishment. The kennels and the pack are in charge of the Keeper, Mr. Frank Goodall, whose personal merits are well known in the sporting world.

As for the hounds, we can but refer to the learned and lively description given by "Plantagenet," a most competent writer, in *The Field* of Nov. 2, 1878. It gives a more exact account of the pack than we could pretend to furnish by our own information. The writer is justified in remarking that "One who loves his hounds as Frank Goodall does may well feel something of chagrin at the neglect of such well-bred and shapely ones as the Royal Buckhounds, which can boast a lineage higher and purer than many a fashionable foxhound pack. Formed first from the celebrated Goodwood stock, which passed from the Duke of Richmond into Royal hands more than half a century ago, they were improved greatly under the care of the elder Davis, and his more famous son Charles. King preserved the old traditions that made the blood of the great Woodman so cherished in the Ascot kennels; and Frank Goodall, since his accession to office six years ago, has done much to raise the standard of the pack in point of symmetry and true hound quality. Like huntsmen in other countries, where love of sport is supposed to be more widely prevalent, he suffers from want of walks for puppies, and has frequently, therefore, to take drafts from other kennels." We are then more particularly told of the breeding and points of the young hounds; Lovely (by Forester and Legacy), Gallant, Ganymede, General, and Garland (the dam Governess); next to these, Scorpion, Seraph, Sheila, and Syren, with their famous sire, Strideaway, and their dam Social; also, by the same father, Rector, Rapture, Redpole, and Rhapsody, whose mother was Roundelay; till we perceive that a system of alliteration has been contrived in the naming of all puppies which are the offspring of any one dam, for the easier remembrance of their female parentage. The reader who is curious and precise with respect to the pedigree of hounds, and who feels sufficient concern about those of the Royal Pack, may therefore consult "Plantagenet" in the *Field*. Some older inmates of the kennels at Ascot are more especially noticed, such as the yellow-pied Captor, a descendant of Woodman; Roderick and Rummager, by Lord Portsmouth's Nobleman, the dam Ringlet; Bardolph, another of Nobleman's race; Tancred, Shamrock, and Samson, and last, but not least, Friendly, "in whom the blood of Sir Watkin Wynn's Romeo and Lord Poltimore's Fairplay are mingled." These particulars will, no doubt, have engaged the attention of connoisseurs of the canine aristocracy.

On visiting the Kennels at Ascot Heath, our Artist was conducted through a passage between the four yards into which the premises are divided, and one of which is shown at the top of our page of Engravings. Mr. Goodall here met and caressed two of his special pets. The one which has unfortunately lost great part of his tail is that excellent hound Rummager, and thereby hangs a tale of some interest, which we are enabled to relate. While this dog and others were one day pursuing a deer along or across a line of railway, they were run into by a train, which killed some of them and disabled others. Rummager escaped with the loss of his tail. Mr. Goodall, coming up immediately, began to soothe the poor sufferers as best he could, which so much aroused the feeling of gratitude in this dog, that he has ever since been watching every opportunity to show his love for his master. Now, it happened shortly afterwards, when Mr. Goodall was out with the pack in the Knaphill country, that, just as he laid the hounds on to the track of the deer, his horse slipped, and threw him violently to the ground, where he lay some time insensible. Rummager had gone on with the rest of the pack; but, finding Mr. Goodall not in his place in the field, this affectionate creature suddenly left them, returned to find his master, and began licking the blood from his wounded head. The dog for some time would not let anybody come near his prostrate friend, and it was necessary to drag him away by force when the surgeon approached to attend to the injured man. From that time to this, Rummager has considered it

his own special duty to take care of the personal safety of Mr. Goodall in the hunting-field. He invariably keeps close to Mr. Goodall's horse at the uncaring of the deer, and waits till the pack has fairly started and crossed the first two or three fields, before he is content to leave his friend, and run on to join the other hounds. This is the history of the dog with the lopped tail, which stands with another, fondly receiving their master's kind attentions, in the group shown at the right-hand upper corner of our page of Engravings.

The interior of one of the kennels, where the hounds sleep, is immediately below. This is a comfortable, well-ventilated apartment, with a raised platform, some eighteen inches above the ground, keeping their bed from damp and draught. There are usually from fifteen to twenty couples of hounds in each of these compartments. At the back of the kennels are three large paddocks, or inclosed grass-fields, each about half an acre, which are the dogs' playground; they have also the flag-paved yards for an open air promenade. There is a row of small kennels which is the hospital for the sick and wounded. Beyond this extends a long range of buildings, which comprises the kitchen or boiling-room, the feeding-room, with adjacent waiting-rooms, the store-rooms for meal and for straw. A hundred yards distant is the slaughter-house, where old horses, destined for the food of the hounds, are killed, in the manner shown in one of these Sketches, by shooting the animal behind the ear with a gun held close to it. The carcase of the horse is then dressed, divided, and consigned to the cook, who takes its quarters into the kitchen, and puts them into the large coppers for boiling. At the opposite side, in our Illustration of the kitchen, are seen two immense coolers, in which is to be found a quantity of oatmeal porridge, ready to be mixed with the chopped-up horseflesh. This is cut into small dice-shaped morsels; and, when mixed with the oatmeal, the mess is diluted with the rich soup or gravy of the horseflesh from the coolers. It is then poured into the trough in the feeding-room at dinner-time, and there Mr. Goodall stands at the door, calling the dogs by name, one after another, to come in from their waiting-room, but permitting only a certain number to enter at one time. No hound will venture to pass the open door till he hears his name called, and their repast is conducted with perfect good order. There is much else that is interesting and worthy of remark at the Ascot Heath Kennels of her Majesty's Royal Buckhounds, and in the manner of educating and ruling this fine pack, as well as their performances in the hunting-field.

The deer, bucks and does, which the hunters are pleased to speak of as "stags" and "hinds," are preserved in the Swinley Plantation, to the number of twenty or thirty couple, expressly for the Royal chase. They are regularly fed and cared for, with sheds for winter shelter. The horns of the bucks are cut down, so that they may not hurt the hounds when they turn at bay. Some of the old ones have been hunted, over and over again, for seven or eight years, and do not seem much afraid of it, but will go away gallantly, a run of twenty miles or so, and give all the sport they can before they are caught and replaced in the cart. It is the practice to allow the deer about ten minutes' "law," and let him get fairly out of sight, before laying the hounds on his scent. At the beginning of the season, for the encouragement of the younger hounds, they are allowed to run into and kill two or three of the deer. But, in general, this pastime is not attended with death or injury to the hunted beast; and it is more of a race than a real hunt, after all.

A SPORTSMAN OF THE LANDES.

The traveller by railway from Bordeaux to Bayonne, in the south-west region of France, will cross a plain extending nearly one hundred miles, from north to south, and open to the Atlantic coast, which displays singular features of landscape scenery. It was formerly a vast wilderness, alternately sandy and swampy, interspersed with numerous larger and smaller lakes, and with connecting creeks, not unlike the ancient condition, we suppose, of the Fen Country in the eastern counties of England. But much of the "Landes" has been profitably reclaimed for cultivation and for useful habitation; great forests of pine now cover the poorer soil, while here and there plantations are seen of the oak or the chesnut, with pasture meadows, orchards, and vineyards, and with farmhouses and villages, in the more favoured spots of this district. The western parts of the Landes, towards the seacoast, remain in a wilder state; around the Lakes of Cazau, Biscarrosse, and Aureilhan, due south of Arcachon, the sportsman will find an abundance of game, wild ducks and snipes, as well as hares and rabbits, with uninterrupted space for the exercise of his skill in their pursuit. The rustic people of the Landes, more especially the shepherds and those who tend the herds of cows and oxen, are notoriously accustomed to walk on stilts, by which means they are enabled to traverse the swamps and marshes, or to stride over dykes and creeks, and to command an extensive view, from their elevated footing, over the level plain where they pass their lonely days. Even since the aspect of the country has been greatly changed by modern improvement, they have not altogether laid aside the stilts, which are still found an expeditious aid to the performance of a long journey, independently of the common roads; and whenever the countryman takes his gun for "la chasse," intent on killing a few brace of wildfowl or rabbits, he is apt to be mounted upon these queer artificial prolongations of the human leg. He also carries a long staff with an iron claw at the end of it, by which he can pick up the game he has won, and he is happy to avail himself, like most of our own sportsmen in their shooting excursions, of the assistance of an intelligent dog. This manner of following such pastime in the Landes of south-western France is shown in the Illustration which appears on our front page.

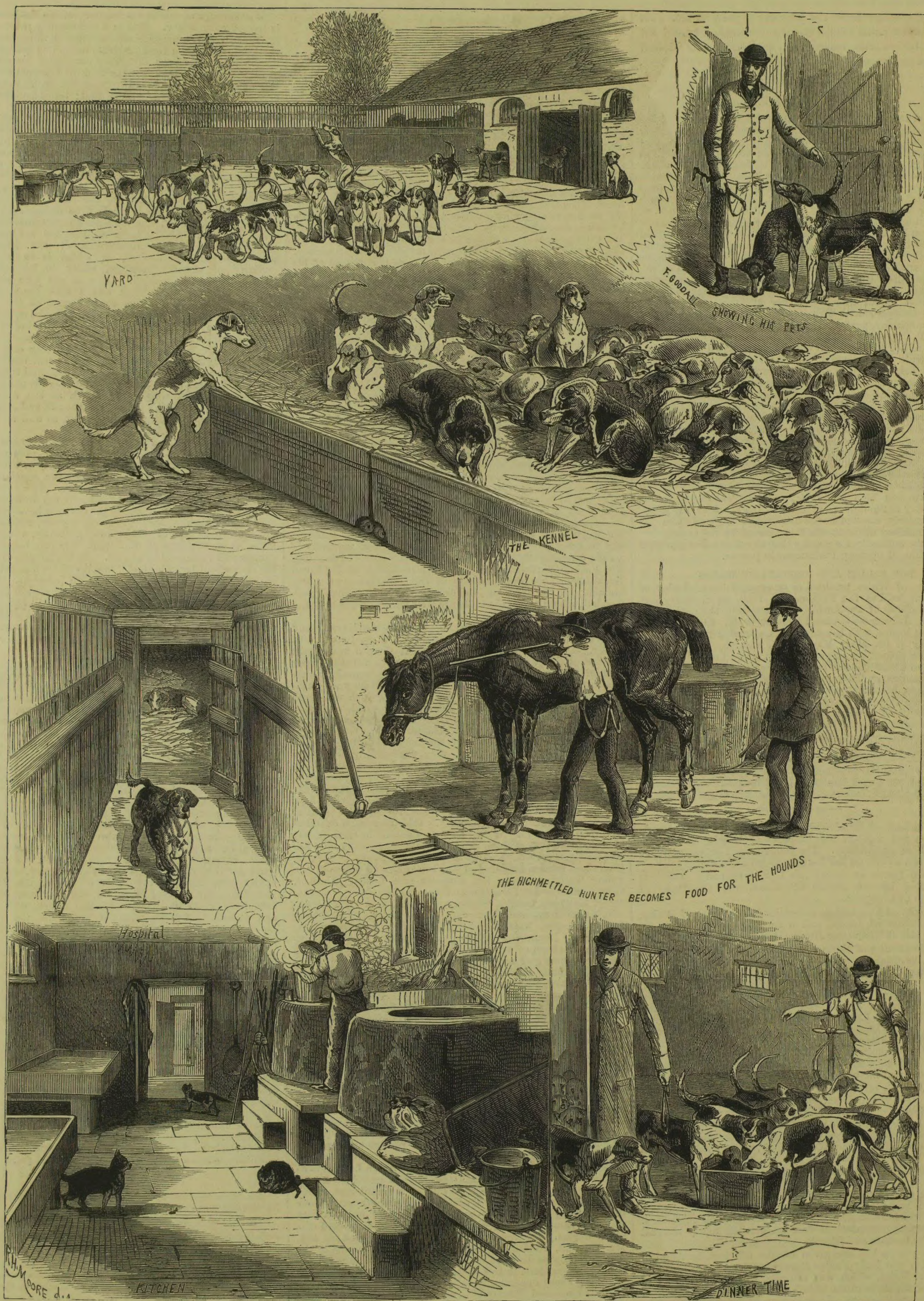
Sir John Marjoribanks has resigned the mastership of the Northumberland and Berwickshire Foxhounds.

Mr. Ralph John Aspinall, of Standen Hall, Clitheroe, has been appointed High Sheriff of Lancashire for the ensuing year.

Mr. Christopher Beckett Denison, M.P., has been elected deputy chairman of the Great Northern Railway Company, in place of Lord Colville, who recently, in consequence of the death of the late Colonel Duncombe, succeeded to the chair.

Mr. Bosworth has issued the tenth volume of his compendious "Clergy Directory." In addition to the usual information respecting Convocation, Church societies, benefices, the clergy list, &c., several suggestions offered since the last issue have been adopted. The work contains 700 pages.

An extraordinary meeting of the London and Westminster Bank was held on Wednesday at the chief office in Lothbury—Sir John Rose, Bart., in the chair—when resolutions were passed for registering the bank under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1879, as a limited company, and further for increasing the capital of the bank by creating 40,000 shares of £100 each.



THE ROYAL BUCKHOUNDS: SKETCHES OF THE KENNELS AT ASCOT.—SEE PAGE 75.



SECOKUNI'S TOWN, IN THE TRANSVAAL, FROM THE HEIGHTS OCCUPIED BY THE 94TH REGIMENT, NOVEMBER 28.—SEE PAGE 78.
A SKETCH BY CAPTAIN J. H. PÖR.

THE AFGHAN WAR.

There is little fresh news of the military or political situation of affairs in Afghanistan. The most important fact is an announcement from General Roberts that the Military Governorship of Cabul has been abolished, and that Wali Mahomed Khan has been intrusted with the administration of the city. The Kohistanis are enticing disbanded Sepoys from Cohazni. The hostile force of five thousand Mohmuds, who crossed the Cabul river near Dakka, have been completely defeated. Brigadier-General Doran arrived from Lundi Kotol too late to cut off their retreat. The British loss was one killed and seven wounded. The late Ameer's Commander-in-Chief, Daoud Shah, escorted by a strong guard, has arrived at Peshawur.

Various rumours are current of the supposed intentions of the Indian Government, but they may be either contradicted or confirmed within two or three days. It is stated that 133 miles of the Candahar railway were finished last week; 5000 men and 2000 animals were employed in the construction. There seems to be no doubt that anarchy prevails in Herat. A number of despatches from General Roberts, reporting the operations of his troops from the date of his again taking the field at Thull, on Sept. 10, to his entry into Cabul on Oct. 13, were published in Monday's *Gazette*.

THE SECOKUNI WAR.

Secokuni was the hereditary chieftain of a tribe called the Bapedi, or sometimes the Makatees, a branch of the Basuto Kaffir nation, long ago settled in the mountain country north of the Transvaal. Our troublesome and costly warfare against this petty South African potentate has just been terminated by Sir Garnet Wolseley's adroit and successful attack, on Nov. 28, upon Secokuni's formidable stronghold in the Lulu mountains, beyond the Steelpoort river, not far from the gold-fields of Lydenburg. We give an illustration of the position and of the military operations in this week's Number of our Journal. The Secokuni war, as well as the late Zulu war, involving an untold expenditure of British taxpayers' money, was gratuitously and needlessly imposed upon us by that most unwise, unjust, and unauthorized proceeding in April, 1877, our usurpation of the dominion of the Transvaal Dutch Republic. It was not the British South African colonies, but the Dutchmen of that independent State, that had any dispute either with Cetewayo or with Secokuni; and there never was the slightest cause to apprehend hostilities on the Zulu frontier of Natal, still less from the Bapedi 200 miles farther away in the interior, till we were unvariously led into assuming responsibility for Dutch territorial claims, in both directions, which we had previously discountenanced as false and groundless. But having, by an act of unprovoked aggression, which the Dutch Republic was then unable to resist, and in flagrant violation of a public international agreement concluded in 1854, suppressed the Transvaal Government, despite the solemn protest of seven eighths of its citizens, and having coldly dismissed their appeals to England for redress, it then seemed expedient for us to go to war against the native races dwelling on their border, to maintain some of the Boers in wrongful possession of native lands, and to give proofs of the British military power, in hopes that all this might persuade the Dutch freemen to acquiesce in the deprivation of their national independence. It has failed to obtain that result; we have put ourselves, in vain, to the cost of the Zulu and Secokuni wars, in which hundreds of English lives and several millions sterling have been wasted; the British colonies are neither more nor less secure than they were before; and the Dutch Republicans are less than ever disposed to become subjects of the British Empire.

The chief of the Bapedi, at the time when the emigrant Boers first made their appearance in this quarter, was Sequati, the father of Secokuni, and with him a treaty was entered into, prohibiting armed men from crossing the Steelpoort River, lest they should disturb the friendly relations subsisting between the farmers and the natives. For some years the Boers occupied the low-lying territory, the "bush veldt," as it is called, intervening between the Steelpoort River and the eastern boundary of the Transvaal; but the ravages of fever and horse-sickness at length compelled them to abandon their farms and retire to the higher and more healthy regions. They continued, however, to use the bush veldt for winter pasturage and wood-cutting. The retirement of the Boers tempted Secokuni to extend his sway over the territory that had been partially abandoned. Some of Secokuni's clansmen established themselves on the Transvaal side of the Steelpoort River; but the Boers offered no serious objection, and it was not until the discovery of the Lydenburg gold-fields that any difficulty arose. The miners did not live on good terms with their neighbours, and it was commonly believed in the Transvaal that they were rather desirous of bringing on hostilities as a means of discovering whether the Bapedi Reserve, which Secokuni had shut against all prospecting parties, was as rich in auriferous products as they had been led to suppose. The immediate cause of the war, however, had nothing to do with the gold-fields. One of the German missionaries, who had been for some years labouring in Secokuni's country without much success, left the chief's territory with his converts, and established a station in the vicinity of Lydenburg. Among the missionary's adherents was a petty headman, named Johannes, who located himself in the abandoned territory, at some distance from Lydenburg. Johannes, however, kept up communications with his chief, and, it is said, under his orders began to obstruct the Boers in their periodical visits to the low country. A collision between Johannes and a party of woodcutters, and a false report that the missionary's station had been burnt, led to a resolution on the part of the Volksraad, with which President Burgers reluctantly concurred, to send a commando into the disturbed district. This was in the middle of 1876. The unwieldy force of 3000 burghers who assembled at the call of the President failed in its object, and retired from the country in a disorderly manner. In his extremity, the President raised a force of mercenaries, who took up a number of fortified positions on the borders of the enemy's country. In September, 1876, Secokuni assumed the offensive, and unsuccessfully attacked one of these fortified posts. During the next three months a desultory kind of warfare was carried on, and in January, 1877, a peace was agreed to, Secokuni consenting to retire within his original boundaries, and promising to pay an indemnity of 2000 head of cattle. In April of the same year the Republic became extinct, and Sir Theophilus Shepstone disbanded the border forces while the terms of the peace were as yet unsatisfied, Secokuni having sent in less than a tenth of the stipulated number of cattle. The supervision of the frontier was at this time most imperfect. Sir Theophilus Shepstone either relied too much on the influence of his mere name, was too much preoccupied with the Zulu question, or had not the necessary means at his command. There can be no doubt that the general lawlessness which culminated in renewed hostilities in March of last year was directly attributable to this negligent administration

of frontier affairs. Captain Clarke, R.A., Special Commissioner of the Lydenburg district, then headed the forces, and engaged, with varying success, in several small affairs with the enemy, or rather with the outlying allies of Secokuni, for Captain Clarke never succeeded in penetrating far into the highlands. His command consisted of less than three hundred volunteers, with six guns, and about six hundred natives, of whom a hundred formed a special corps known as the "Zulu police." These men proved mutinous, and had to be disbanded, and things were in a very desperate condition. Colonel Rowlands arrived on the scene after the conclusion of the war on the eastern frontier of the Cape Colony had enabled Lord Chelmsford to set free the forces engaged in that campaign. This officer undertook operations on a large scale, but without calculating the difficulties of his task or the resources of the enemy; and he, too, had to recoil from the Bapedi country, his troops harassed by the enemy, and suffering severely from the combined effects of drought and disease. The Zulu war came on, and for a whole year Secokuni had a respite. The forts on his border had been occupied by small detachments, unable to do more than to hold their own ground. The encounters were insignificant and far between, and it was hoped that peace would be made without further fighting. It is said that Sir Garnet Wolseley did not order a resumption of hostilities until the chief had refused the terms that were proffered him. Having been undertaken, we are glad that operations have been crowned with such speedy and decisive success. The direction of the campaign required no small amount of military skill—accurate timing, careful dispositions, and watchful regard to the medical and commissariat arrangements. The success of the expedition justifies Sir Garnet's high reputation as a commander; but the war is one that reflects much discredit on British colonial government, as it was not undertaken for the protection of our own settlements, none of which lay at all exposed to disturbance from the Transvaal quarrels with Secokuni or with Cetewayo. If the Transvaal Republic had been left alone in 1877 it would have simply found itself obliged to leave its native neighbours alone, and to give up its attempted encroachments on their territory. By taking the Transvaal, against the will of its lawful owners, and making it a portion of the Queen's dominions, we have incurred political obligations and military necessities beyond our own control. There are more difficulties and embarrassments of the same kind still impending on the northern, north-western, and north-eastern frontiers of the Transvaal; and if we could now get rid of it altogether it would be a happy deliverance. The total European population consists of about 40,000 Dutch and 5000 English, Germans, and other foreigners; nearly all the substantial landowners are Dutch Boers of South African birth. The Orange River Free State, inhabited by the same people, adjoins the Transvaal, being situated between this and the Cape Colony; it has existed as an independent Republic since 1852, and is as well-governed and prosperous as any British Colony. There seems to be no reason why the Transvaal should not enjoy its independence as securely and peaceably as the Orange River, or it might perhaps be united with the existing Free State.

Sir Garnet Wolseley's despatches, relating the manner in which "Secokuni's Town" was attacked and captured on Nov. 28 by the "Transvaal Field Force," under command of Lieutenant-Colonel Baker Russell, were published here (by telegraph despatches) in the Christmas week. The troops employed in this action consisted of two battalions of the 21st and 94th Regiments, a detachment of the 80th Regiment, a detachment of the Royal Engineers, four guns of Transvaal Artillery, Ferreira's Horse, and the Border Horse, with 10,000 native auxiliaries, mostly of the Swazies. It seems that Ferreira's troop led the right attack, and took Secokuni's own kraal from the heights to the south. Colonel Murray commanded the central attack with a detachment of the Royal Engineers, 21st Fusiliers, 94th Regiment, a detachment of the 8th Regiment, four guns of the Transvaal Artillery, and the Rustenburg contingent. His attack was chiefly directed on the "Fighting Koppe," a mass of rock perforated with a number of holes and caverns. Major Carrington led the left wing. The Mounted Infantry, the Border Horse, the Transvaal Mounted Rifles, and the Zoutpanberg native contingent, captured the lower town, and cleared the hills above, sweeping round Secokuni's kraal. The Swazies appeared on the hills above, having fought their way up from the eastward. The town and most of the caves having been cleared and burnt, the Fighting Koppe was stormed. All the corps took part in the assault, which was completely successful. The officers killed were Captain Macaulay, late 12th Lancers, Captain W. G. Lawrell, of the 4th Hussars, and Mr. Campbell; Captain Maurice, R.A., Captain Gordon, and Captain Willoughby, 21st Regiment, Captain Beeton, Lieutenant O'Grady, 94th, and Lieutenant Dewar, King's Dragoon Guards, were wounded. Secokuni was made prisoner four days afterwards, and was sent to Capetown, where both he and Cetewayo are now confined in the Castle.

Our illustration, from a sketch by Captain J. H. Pöe, of the 94th Regiment, taken at a height of 500ft. above the native town, and on the extreme right of the attack, presents a commanding view of the "Fighting Koppe," the isolated heap of rock in the centre, the British camp to the left hand, and the troops advancing from opposite sides to make their assault, in the manner above described. The engagement began at half-past four in the morning, and finished at half-past ten in the forenoon.

A tremendous fight has taken place in Corsica between the gendarmerie and a troop of banditti, in which the officers were overpowered.

Tranquillity in Samoa has been restored by the recognition of the King Malletoa, whose claims were advocated by England, Germany, and the United States.

Letters received in London from Sir Gavan Duffy, Speaker of the Victorian Parliament, announce that he is about to visit England, and will arrive in this country in May or June next.

Mr. John Edward Barker, of the North-Eastern Circuit, has been appointed Recorder of Leeds, in place of Mr. Maule, Q.C., the recently appointed Director of Public Prosecutions. Mr. Barker was called to the Bar at the Inner Temple in 1862.

The King of Wurtemberg has conferred on Mr. E. W. Streeter, of Bond-street, the gold medal awarded for merit in arts and sciences, with an authority to wear it attached to the ribbon of the Royal Order of Frédéric, as "a mark of his Majesty's high appreciation of Mr. Streeter's book on 'Precious Stones and Gems.'"

The North British Railway Directors have resolved to apply to Parliament for power to rebuild the Tay Bridge at a lower level, and to erect a new bridge alongside and connected with the present one. It has been determined to proceed no further than the foundations with the Firth of Forth Bridge until all the information has been obtained which the forthcoming Board of Trade inquiry is likely to furnish. The Dundee Town Council have passed a resolution in favour of the reconstruction of the Tay Bridge, but with a double line of rails and at a lower elevation.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

FRANCE.

The President of the Republic and Madame Grévy gave their first reception of the season on the 15th inst.

M. Tharnes, of the *Débats*, preferring to remain a journalist, has refused the post of Sub-Director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

M. Martel was re-elected President of the Senate on the 14th inst. by 168 votes out of 208, and the other office-bearers were, with only one or two exceptions, reappointed. On the 16th the Senate elected M. Barthélemy de Saint-Hilaire as its fourth Vice-President. All the Vice-Presidents consequently belong to the Left.

On taking possession of the presidential chair in the Chamber of Deputies on the 15th inst., M. Gambetta expressed his profound gratitude for the honour the Chamber had done him in re-electing him to preside over it, adding that he would devote all the activity, intelligence, firmness, and attention he possessed to the service of the House. His address was received with cheers from all the groups of the Left. M. Baudry d'Asson, who brought forward an interpellation attacking the Government for dismissing the Mayors in La Vendée who attended a Legitimist banquet, was censured by a vote of the House.

The statement of the new Ministry respecting their intended policy was read yesterday week in the Senate and Chamber of Deputies. The Ministers say that the recent change in the Cabinet indicates no change in the prudent and measured policy which is best suited both at home and abroad to the condition of the country, but merely signifies that France may henceforth advance with decision in the path of necessary reforms and successive improvements. The Ministry propose to ask the Senate to go on with the Public Instruction Bills which have already been adopted by the Chamber; to proceed with the reorganisation of the magistracy, and the reform of the personnel of the Administration; to adopt the bill of their predecessors respecting the right of meeting, and to prepare a bill on the subject of the press. Nothing was said about an amnesty. The telegrams differ in their description of the manner in which the statement was received. According to some, it had a warmer reception in the Chamber than in the Senate, while others state that the applause was loudest in the latter body.

Two of the new Ministers spoke in the Chamber of Deputies on Saturday. A Bonapartist deputy having again raised the Conversion question, M. Magnin said that the Government looked upon the Conversion as an act on the opportuneness of which it alone could judge, and of which it reserved to itself the initiative. He called for the order of the day pure and simple, and this was carried by 301 to 121. General Farre had afterwards to speak on the repeal of the Army Chaplains Law of 1874. He stated, in four sentences, much applauded by the Left, that he should himself have proposed the repeal had nobody else already done so, and that a chaplain's presence with a regiment was undesirable from a military point of view, for whatever influence he acquired would be at the expense of the officers. The repeal was adopted by 342 to 111.

Prayers were offered at Notre Dame on Sunday for the Parliament, as prescribed by the Constitution at the opening of a Session. Three of the ten Ministers—M. Lepère, M. Varroy, and Admiral Jauréguiberry (a Protestant)—and two of the five under-secretaries attended.

The Chamber of Deputies was occupied on Monday with the bill on Female Secondary Education, which was opposed by the Right as designed to discourage Catholic training, and defended by the Left. M. Fules Ferry approved the measure as regarded day schools, but he objected to boarding schools as too costly for the local authorities; and this point was referred back to the Committee. General Farre submitted to the Joint Committee of both Houses on the General Staff a scheme whereby staff officers, instead of passing their lives in administrative offices, without mixing with the army, would be brought into closer contact with it. The present staff is to be gradually superseded till 1885, when the new scheme will take full effect.

Both Houses met on Tuesday. In the Senate, M. Rampon, Vice-President, paid a tribute to M. de Lavergne and M. Jules Favre. In the Chamber, M. Brisson, who presided, M. Gambetta having a sore throat, announced the death of M. Bonnel, a member of the Extreme Left. M. Cazot introduced his Magistracy and M. Ferry his Primary Education Bill. The Female Secondary Education Bill was agreed to on the understanding that boarding accommodation should not be provided unless called for by the municipalities. A Bill making gymnastics obligatory in boys' schools, and another providing that infantry captains should be mounted, were also adopted.

The first number of M. Clemenceau's new Radical paper, *La Justice*, appeared on the 15th inst. It demands of the Government a frankly popular policy, and the application of the principle of equality in all matters, not excluding the amnesty question.

The reception of M. Taine at the Academy took place on the 15th. He succeeds M. de Loménie, who was elected about six years ago, when M. Mérimée died. The task of welcoming M. Taine among the Immortals fell to M. Jean Baptiste Dumas, the great chemist and eloquent lecturer.

M. Jules Favre died on Monday night. He was born at Lyons in 1809, and was studying for the Bar when the Revolution of 1830, in which he took an active part, broke out. He soon afterwards commenced practice, and obtained a wide reputation for his independence of character and the Radicalism of his opinions. He was in office for a short time after the Revolution of 1848, and was elected after the Coup d'Etat of December, 1851, to the Council-General of the Rhone, but refused to take the oath to the new Constitution. He defended Orsini in 1858, and soon afterwards became a member of the Legislative Body, and distinguished himself for some years by his speeches in opposition to the Second Empire. In 1870, on the fall of the Empire, he was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Government of the National Defence, and on Sept. 18 went to the Prussian head-quarters at Ferrières to negotiate with Count Bismarck for an armistice. The negotiations proved fruitless, owing to Count Bismarck's demand for the surrender of Strasbourg, Toul, and Verdun. After the conclusion of peace in 1871, M. Jules Favre resigned office, resumed practice at the Bar, and has not since taken a very prominent part in politics. He was elected a member of the French Academy in May, 1867.

The Duc de Gramont, who was French Foreign Minister at the outbreak of the Franco-German war of 1870, died on the 16th inst., at the age of sixty. He was Ambassador at Cassel, Stuttgart, Rome, and Vienna before attaining the post of Foreign Minister. He married, in 1848, a Scotch lady, Miss Mackinnon, and leaves three sons and a daughter.

Prévost, the murderer of the travelling jeweller Lenoble and the girl Adèle Blondin, whose execution has been so long delayed, was put to death on Monday in the Place la Roquette.

ITALY.

King Humbert and the whole Diplomatic Body were present at a ball given at the British Embassy at Rome on

Monday night. Queen Margherita was prevented by indisposition from being present.

A telegram from Rome on Tuesday stated that the Pope was indisposed and confined to his bed. His Holiness was suffering from a severe cold and from nervous irritability.

The Chamber of Deputies on Monday resolved to go into mourning for eight days in consequence of the death of Generals Avezzana and Carini. Signor Magliani, the Minister of Finance, stated that the Budget for 1880 would show an increase in the revenue.

SPAIN.

The Presidents of both Houses of the Cortes on Saturday last presented addresses of congratulation to the King on his recent escape from the assassin. The King's reception of the representatives of the Liberal parties was so cordial that it is believed the difficulty arising from their abstention from the Cortes will soon be brought to an end.

At the sitting of the Chamber of Deputies on Tuesday all the clauses of the Slavery Abolition Bill were adopted, and the measure was finally voted in its entirety the next day.

Count Toreno has been nominated President of the Chamber of Deputies, being provisionally replaced in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs by Señor Canovas del Castillo.

Doctors have been appointed to examine into the mental condition of Otero, who attempted the life of the King.

Owing to a landslide, the village of Alcala del Jucar, in the province of Albacete, has been destroyed. Several lives were lost, and fifty families have been rendered homeless.

HOLLAND.

Baron van Lynden, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, stated on Tuesday, in the First Chamber, that a convention had been concluded with the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg, liquidating entirely, without any payment on either side, the former financial relations between the two States.

GERMANY.

The Emperor on Saturday last, in the Hall of the Knights in the Royal Palace, held an investiture of the Order of the Black Eagle, when Prince Henry of Hesse, the Hereditary Prince of Hohenzollern, Duke Paul of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, and others were invested as Knights of the Order. The Royal Princes, with their suites, Generals and Lieutenant-Generals of cavalry and infantry, Ministers, and other high dignitaries, beside the Knights qualified to assist at a chapter, were present.

Herr Maybach announced in the Prussian Parliament on Monday that the Government contemplated no further acquisition of railways beyond the Rhenish and that connecting Berlin with Potsdam and Magdeburg, for which the bill was introduced. The Government would wait to see the economical and financial effect of this measure before proceeding further. Referring to the attacks made upon the Government for their participation in the establishment of the German Maritime Commerce Company in the Samoan Islands, Herr Bitter, Minister of Finance, said that the Prussian Government could not take upon themselves to oppose the national aims of the German Imperial Chancellor. It was rather incumbent upon them to promote such objects.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

At the reopening of the Austrian Reichsrath on the 15th, the split which has occurred in the Constitutional party in consequence of the recent vote on the Army Bill became manifest by the withdrawal of the Progressist members from the Constitutional party. The Progressists announced at the same time the resignation of their colleagues as members of the Executive Committee of the party.

At the sitting of the Austrian Delegation on the same day Baron Haymerle made an important and detailed statement upon the foreign policy of Austria, and also upon the intentions of the Government in respect to the occupied provinces of Turkey.

The Hungarian Delegation on Sunday adopted the Naval Estimates in accordance with the proposals of the Committee. The Assembly next unanimously voted the supplementary credit of 636,000 fl. for the repatriation of the Bosnian refugees, upon the Government declaring that they would ask for no further grant for that purpose. A return of the amount in the State Treasury at the disposal of the Common Government was presented to the Delegation by the Government.

The United Committees of the Hungarian Delegation have approved the extraordinary financial estimates for Bosnia and Herzegovina without alteration. During the discussion the Ministers stated that no obstacle would be placed in the way of the Mohammedans in the new provinces maintaining their hierarchical connection with Constantinople, and they would be left at liberty in the administration of the Vakouf property. Certain taxes had been deprived of their burdensome and vexatious character. The Census showed the population to be 1,500,000 souls. A scientific investigation had been made, which showed that the country contained great forest and mineral wealth, and that the forests almost all belonged to the State.

The duel fought at Pesth between a Baron and the editor of a Radical newspaper mentioned in our last issue has led to serious riots in the city. The mob, enraged at the fate of the editor, who was seriously wounded, directed a demonstration against the National Club, to which the Baron had belonged. The soldiery and police being jointly employed to restore order, firearms were discharged in the fray, by whom it is uncertain, and two lives were lost.

RUSSIA.

On Sunday the blessing of the waters at St. Petersburg took place. A mass was celebrated at noon in the Winter Palace, in presence of the Emperor and the Imperial family. Outside the palace was erected the shrine, with steps leading to the river, where the ice had been broken. At 12.40 the procession issued from the palace, consisting of choristers, priests, high officials, and colour-sergeants bearing fifty regimental flags and standards. These were sprinkled by the Metropolitan with consecrated water, which was taken away in bottles or eagerly drunk by devotees. It is considered a panacea for various ills. In some instances ablutions, considered necessary in the case of those who had worn masks in the late holidays, were resorted to, notwithstanding the cold—27 deg. Fahrenheit.

The Empress is to be removed from Cannes to St. Petersburg. Preparations are being made at the Winter Palace for her Majesty's arrival.

The commander of the Fifth Russian Army Corps, stationed at Posen, has given a complete denial to a report of an encounter between some of his officers and their Prussian guests.

The *Invalides Russe* declares all reports about concentrations of troops on the western frontier to be totally unfounded. Not only has the army not been increased, but as late as last December it was reduced by 36,000 below the normal peace effective, and further reductions are intended. Whereas a Brussels paper states that the Russian Government has addressed notes to the Cabinets of Vienna and Berlin, declaring that it is willing to withdraw the troops which it had stationed on the frontiers without any warlike intention,

if their presence is regarded by those Cabinets as of a character to disturb the friendly relations at present existing.

The Berlin correspondent of the *Standard* states "on the highest authority" that news has been received from Persia announcing a second Russian reverse at the hands of the Turkomans. The Russians have been compelled to evacuate their position at Tchikislar and to take refuge in their ships.

A Moscow paper states that a petty officer and a seaman have been arrested at Nicolaieff, their sea chests being filled with revolutionary books and pamphlets. At Helsingfors a Lutheran minister, who had been warned to discontinue preaching against revolutionary doctrines, has been visited by two young men who demanded money of him. He refused, fired at them, and was fired at in return, but without injury on either side. The young men escaped.

On being informed of an outbreak among the Tartars in several Kazan-Tartar villages, in consequence of the taxes imposed upon them, the Russian governor proceeded to the place, accompanied by police and 500 soldiers, and, having ordered the whips to be prepared, the Tartars fell down on their knees and promised to pay the taxes regularly in future.

SWEDEN AND NORWAY.

In opening the Swedish Rigsdag on Saturday last, the King announced that a resolution would be introduced declaring that all the schemes for a thorough reform of the system of taxation would for the present be postponed. The Budget estimates the revenue and expenditure each at 74,710,000 crowns, the latter including the deficit for 1879, amounting to 1,550,000 crowns.

TURKEY.

A Constantinople telegram says that the Porte has addressed a note to Sir Henry Layard, in which it reviews and replies to the three points of the Ambassador's ultimatum on the subject of the missionary incident. The note argues that the proceedings of Dr. Koeller justified the seizure of his papers, which were only returned to him out of regard for England; states that Ahmed Tewfik deserves the punishment awarded to him in conformity with the religious laws of the country, and that he was liberated only by the clemency of the Sultan; and, in conclusion, expresses satisfaction at the resumption of official relations with Sir Henry Layard.

Hafiz Pasha, the Minister of Police, whose dismissal from that office was lately demanded by Sir Henry Layard, not only retains his post, but has received from the Sultan the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Medjidie.

GREECE.

An indictment, signed by twenty-six deputies, was presented to the Chambers yesterday week accusing MM. Sotiros and Petmezas, the former being the Minister of War in the present Cabinet, of having purchased 1000 pairs of shoes and 15,000 cases of biscuits, costing respectively 80,000 and 450,000 drachmas, sums far exceeding the value of the articles, the shoes being unfit for soldiers' wear, and the biscuits unfit for food.

The Ministry has been reconstituted as follows:—M. Coumoundouros, President of the Council and Minister of the Interior; M. Augherinos, Minister of Education; M. Papamichalopulo, Minister of Finance; M. Delgannis, Minister of Foreign Affairs; M. Valamakis, Minister of Justice; M. Bouboulis, Minister of Marine; M. Valtinos, Minister of War.

EGYPT.

The special correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* at Cairo sends a summary of a report presented to the Khedive by Major Baring and M. de Blignieres describing the financial policy to be adopted towards each class of bondholders. The Comptrollers-General express great confidence in the sincerity and rectitude of the present Khedive in regard to the carrying out of reforms essential to the country. The *Daily News* correspondent at Alexandria telegraphs that the Egyptian Budget for 1880, prepared by the European Comptrollers and accepted by the Government, shows a surplus of £100,000, based on the most moderate calculations. Certain taxes which have been declared by the Comptrollers to be of a vexatious or unproductive character are to be abolished.

The Khedive has issued a decree imposing a surtax from the 1st inst. upon all lands hitherto paying only the Ouchoury tax.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs has sent a circular note to the foreign Consuls-General, asking the sanction of the Powers to the proposal of the Egyptian Government to make the payment of pensions and the arrears of the tribute to the Porte a first claim upon the balance of the Domain Loan. The arrears of the tribute amount to £134,000.

Ismail Ayoub Pasha's appointment as Governor-General of the Soudan has been gazetted.

AMERICA.

President Hayes sent to the Senate on Monday the nomination of Mr. James Russell Lowell, now Minister to Spain, as Minister to England; Mr. Lucius Fairchild, Consul-General at Paris, is nominated Minister to Spain; Mr. John W. Foster, now Minister to Mexico, is nominated Minister to Russia, and Mr. Lucius Richmond Consul at Belfast. Bills have been introduced in the Senate and House of Representatives requesting the President to invite the co-operation of the maritime Governments in the construction of the Panama Canal. A Bill has also been presented for the construction of the canal. The House of Representatives has virtually adopted a resolution declaring it to be an infringement of the constitutional prerogative of the House for the Executive to negotiate commercial treaties. In the Senate on the 15th Mr. Bayard's joint resolution for the withdrawal of the compulsory legal tender power of greenbacks was reported upon adversely by the Finance Committee. The report of the minority upon the subject was also submitted. The resolution was placed on the paper for discussion. The House of Representatives has passed a bill permitting the free importation of classical antiquities.

The Republicans in Maine are now masters of the situation. The Republican Legislature met on Saturday, and, the opinion of the Supreme Court pronouncing the Fusionist Legislature to be illegal having been read, elected Mr. Daniel F. Davis, the Republican candidate at the recent election, Governor of the State. Three Fusionists acted with them. General Chamberlain immediately recognized Mr. Davis as Governor, and gave him possession. Senator Blaide attended the Legislature, supervising the proceedings. Subsequently he made a brief speech, advising the Republicans to exercise moderation in their triumph.

The New York correspondent of the *Daily News* telegraphs that Mr. Edison finds his carbon horse-shoes for the electric light liable to break, and has stopped making his lamps until he discovers the cause. But the Philadelphia correspondent of the *Times* says that the Edison electric lights in Menlo Park are still burning to the extent of about eighty lamps, and Mr. Edison's friends state that he is able to overcome the difficulty which has arisen in connection with some details of his lamp.

Mr. Parnell spoke yesterday week at a meeting at Lawrence, Massachusetts, and on Saturday at a meeting at

Providence (Rhode Island), the audience being chiefly composed of Irish Americans. All the collections, including Mr. Parnell's, raised in the United States to that date for the relief of the Irish distress are estimated at about £6000. In the House of Representatives on Monday a resolution was passed, by 96 votes to 42, giving the use of the House to Mr. Parnell on Feb. 2, to deliver an address to the House, who have accepted the invitation to attend. Acting in concert with a number of wealthy citizens, the Mayor of New York has opened at the City Hall a subscription for the relief of Irish distress. The wife of General Sherman has issued an appeal to the public for subscriptions in aid of the distress in Ireland.

CANADA.

It is officially announced that the following changes in the Dominion Cabinet have been decided upon:—The Hon. Louis Masson, at present Minister of Militia, to become President of the Privy Council; the Hon. John O'Connor, President of the Council, to be Postmaster-General; and Sir Alexander Campbell, the Postmaster-General, to be Minister of Militia.

An Order in Council has been issued prohibiting the landing of pauper emigrants at Halifax until the funds have been provided for forwarding them to their destination; the vessel in which they arrive must, in the interim, anchor one mile from the shore.

All the Irish Catholic clergy of Montreal appealed to their congregations on Sunday last in aid of the Irish Relief Fund.

Sir Henry Layard has sent Colonel Synge to distribute relief to the Mussulman refugees in Roumelia.

It is announced by the *Polish Gazette* that the Curator of the Warsaw Scholastic District has prohibited the use of the Polish language in the girls' schools at Warsaw.

The death is announced of the Countess Ida Hahn-Hahn, well known as the authoress of many books of travel and novels. She was born in 1805.

By an explosion of coal gas on board the National Line steamer Greece, which arrived at New York on Saturday last, two of the crew were killed and eight injured. The passengers were unhurt.

The Government of New Zealand has, according to the *Standard*, finally determined not to entertain the proposal to appoint a resident Minister in England, in the place of the agent-general who has hitherto represented the colony.

A bulky Bluebook recently issued contains a large amount of correspondence with British representatives and agents abroad, and reports from naval officers, relating to the slave trade. Another Parliamentary paper, of much smaller dimensions, gives correspondence respecting slavery in Cuba.

It is reported by the astronomers who watched the recent total eclipse of the sun from the summit of the Santa Lucia Mountain, in California, that the intermercurial planet was observed, but that there was no appearance of the phenomenon known as Bailey's Beads.

For the better protection of the dockyard and naval establishments at Hong-Kong, it has been decided to dispatch the turret-ship *Wivern* to that place, and the *Standard* learns that it is intended to commission another harbour defence vessel of similar type for the protection of the dockyard at Bermuda.

A Treaty of Peace has been signed by the chiefs of New Calabar and Bonny, a copy of which has been forwarded to the British Government. It is hoped that the agreement which has now been arrived at will make a lasting peace possible, and thus improve the prospects of the coast trade.

Advices from the West Coast of Africa state that Captain Easton, her Majesty's Acting Consul, in returning from a successful trip up the Niger, found that the Natives of Onitsha 200 miles from the mouth, had been giving considerable trouble to the Europeans. He accordingly obtained the assistance of her Majesty's ship *Pioneer* and bombarded and destroyed the town.

Further particulars have been received of the riots which occurred in Rio de Janeiro, in consequence of a new tax which has been imposed on tramway passengers. The troops who were called out to restore order were fired upon, and ultimately charged and dispersed the crowd. Three persons were killed and thirty wounded, including soldiers and police. On the following day an attempt was made to renew the disturbances, and the ringleaders were arrested.

The *London and China Telegraph* states that the offer of a prize by the Chinese Religious Tract Society for the best tract against "Feng-Shui" has brought out twenty competitors. The essays are in the hands of a competent committee to award the prize. The offer of a prize by the Rev. Mr. Yen for the best tract in favour of the Christian religion brought out thirteen competitors. The two best are to be offered to the Chinese Tract Society for publication.

A flood ravaged the island of St. Kitt's on the 4th inst., by which 200 persons were drowned and property was destroyed to the value of 250,000 dols. St. Kitt's (or St. Christopher) is a British possession in the West Indies, and is one of the Leeward Islands. It is twenty miles long, six miles wide, and has an area of sixty-eight square miles. The population is about 28,000. Violent storms are not uncommon; and in 1722 the island was almost destroyed by a hurricane.

It is stated in a telegram from Valparaiso that an exchange of prisoners has been effected between Chili and the Allies. The Peruvian and Bolivian forces have completely evacuated the department of Tarapaca and reached Arica. The allied forces at Tacna and Arica are estimated at 13,000 men. General Campero, at the head of 1000 Bolivians, has occupied San Pedro at Atacama, menacing the communications of Calama with the coast, but the Chilean troops, it is said, subsequently retook the place. The Huascar has been refitted by the Chileans, and is ready to proceed to sea.

Dr. Chaplin writes from Jerusalem to the Committee of the Palestine Exploration Fund:—"Some time ago the Tombs of the Kings were bought by a French lady, and excavations of considerable interest have lately been carried on there. In the earth which filled a great portion of the rock-hewn, sunken court in front of the entrance to the Tombs have been found many capitals and other architectural remains, amongst them some stones, which show beyond question that they formed part of pyramidal structure. There seems no reasonable doubt that these belonged to the famous three pyramids of the monuments of Helena, and have been thrown down from above. A great marble statue, probably Roman, has been found a few minutes from the seashore, an hour and a half south of Gaza. It is a half figure, nose and right forearm broken off. I send you a tracing of a rough sketch received from a friend. In the Shephelah, an hour or more north of the Jaffa Road, a tomb has been brought to light. One of its stone doors has carving upon it in four panels, on two of which are representations of lions' heads, in two of bull's heads. Probably the tomb is of Crusading origin. It has again been covered in. I had hoped to be able to visit it, as well as the statue below Gaza, but could not leave home. It is said that the statue is to be brought to Jaffa."



MILITARY AMUSEMENTS IN AFGHANISTAN: THE "TUG OF WAR" IN THE CAMP AT GUNDAMUK.—SEE PAGE 80.

FROM A SKETCH BY OUR SPECIAL ARTIST.

TALK OF THE WEEK.

America knows how to honour her literary sons. Men like Washington Irving, Motley, Bret Harte, and James Russell Lowell have been all recognised by successive Presidents, and pass from one foreign Court to another the accredited representatives of the great nation that sends them forth. It will be good news to everyone in England that Lowell, the essayist, critic, and poet, is to leave Spain, where he did excellent work, and is to come, at the invitation of President Hayes, to the Court of St. James's. This amiable and accomplished gentleman is best known in this country as the author of the "Biglow Papers;" but if such a person as Hosea Biglow had never been invented, the new United States Minister should be popular on account of the vigorous poems and fanciful verse that have lightened the hours of his literary life. Lowell is not so well known as a poet as he deserves to be in these times of over-rated miscellaneous verse. A good reader might easily make a convert of any sceptic by declaiming with ease, appreciation, and finish the "Vision of Sir Launfal," with its exquisite descriptions of perfect summer: "The cowslip startles in meadows green, the buttercup catches the sun in its chalice, and there's never a leaf or blade too mean to be some happy creature's palace! The little bird sits at his door in the sun, as if like a blossom among the leaves, and lets his illumined being o'errun with the deluge of summer it receives!" Here surely we have a poet for England and England's scenery, even if he had never written of love as in the song, "O, moonlight deep and tender;" of children, as in the "Changeling;" or of passion of the finest fibre, in "Rosaline." If the advent in England of Lowell increases the number of his earnest admirers all will be well.

Any time these last twenty years it has been said, "Ah, if it were only possible to photograph in colour!" The mystery has been solved—the secret has been discovered—so at least it is said. A humble little scientific workman living in a Parisian cellar has called out "Eureka!" and coloured photographs, brightened by nature, and without artificial means, are to be the fancy next season. There is a vast difference between a photo-print coloured by hand and an impression that retains the colour that we see reflected on the glass of a camera. Already Paris has developed the idea; the right of this admirable secret has been secured for England and the Channel Islands, and when the sun comes again to cheer us the young ladies with beautiful complexions, and the matrons with gorgeous dresses, can be reproduced in a picture, not in dull brown and monochrome, but in the colours that are so charming to the eye. The new invention of photo-crome will cause a revolution in the art of portrait-taking, and by its means the most charming landscapes, forest scenes, and flower-gardens can be preserved for the memory. So may it be! But "hope tells many a flattering tale."

The general impression appears to be that the desperate man who made an attempt on the life of the Polish priest at Hatton-garden is not mad, or, at any rate, that in his madness there is considerable method. Once more there is an error in his nationality. He is not a German, or a Milanese, or, indeed, strictly speaking, an Italian at all. He comes from the doubtful territory of Italian Switzerland, a land swarming with patriots and hot-headed fanatics, who consider that liberty and the priesthood are irreconcilable. It appears that a short time previous to the horrible scene in the Italian Church this very Polish priest had preached a very strong sermon against secret societies, against which he inveighed in no measured terms as antagonistic to order and religion. The night before the occurrence a mysterious visitor presented herself very late at the priest's residence. It was an old Irishwoman, who asked urgently to see one of the Fathers. When asked her business, all that could be got from her was this, "Be warned in time; something dreadful will happen in the morning." Her words came true; but her revelation, scanty as it was, did not suffice to arrest the sacrilege that has so scandalised society.

Whilst the weather has shivered up the weakly and the ailing in England, bringing on with these bitter winds coughs, colds, bronchitis, and the innumerable horrors of a hard winter, news comes of the bright and merry time enjoyed by the English colony in the Riviera. Cannes, Mentone, and Nice are all revelling in blue skies, June-like heat, bunches of violets, and rose gardens. And there has been plenty of amusement as well, for the sportsmen have gone off to Nice for the steeplechases, familiar faces in our London Park have been seen on the "Promenade des Anglais," and, in addition to shooting pigeons and playing roulette, they have this year at Monaco instituted a very healthy distraction in lawn tennis. Monaco, or the "rock of joy," was never looking lovelier, the prickly-pear trees and the cacti are in bloom, and the visitors walk between hedgerows of geraniums. What appetising accounts are these to such as can never see a flower without a journey to Covent Garden. And yet there are spots nearer home where the sun really does shine even in mid-winter. Before me as I write, scarcely able to keep my fingers warm, and waiting for a proper circulation until the mid-day walk, are two letters; one is from Shanklin, in the Isle of Wight, painting a very pretty picture of warm and consoling mornings under the sheltered cliff, and promising healthy rambles about the familiar Chineses and the pretty Landslip if I will only break away in search of the sun. The other is from Glengariffe, on the road to Killybeg, in Ireland, and is accompanied by—what do you think?—a box of flowers plucked in the open air. The primroses and other blossoms that perfume the room have been in full bloom for the last fortnight, and the geniality of the Glengariffe climate is attributed to the effect of the Gulf Stream and the protection from cold by the encircling range of mountains. Amongst my floral treasures are the arbutus, berry and flower on the same stalk—a shrub that loves Ireland dearly, and grows to an enormous height, measuring over 40 ft. high by 7 ft. in circumference. Invalids might go further and fare worse: and it is pleasant to hear that Nature smiles on the "distressful country," so feelingly described by Mr. Joseph Bennett, who has lately been acting as a Commissioner amongst these poor starving and most patient creatures.

The post of operatic or theatrical manager was never at any time a bed of roses, but it will be made far worse if the action succeeds that has been taken against M. Vaucourbert, the director of the Parisian Opera. A very particular and enthusiastic gentleman took tickets to see the "Favorita," with which work he was extremely interested, apparently knowing every note by heart. When he got there he found that several of his favourite airs were cut out, and that the score had been considerably "cut," so he has brought an action to recover damages for his own disappointment, loss of time, failure of contract, and, strangest thing of all, for the alleged insult to the composer's memory! This is a very awkward precedent indeed. What a battle of texts and folios there would be if Henry Irving were to be sued by every Shakspearean enthusiast every time he revived Hamlet or appeared in Macbeth. He would be overwhelmed with actions for transposing scenes and remodelling the various acting

editions, if the argument really held good that is applied in the "Favorita" case. A strict censure of this kind might stop the pernicious system of "gagging," but it is really doubtful if any gentleman would accept the post of director if he were held responsible for omission either in Donizetti's music or Shakspeare's text.

Once upon a time the Poet Laureate, in a passionate appeal for "war with a thousand battles and shaking a hundred thrones," was not very complimentary to the English mother of children or her accommodating spouse. In fact he with some vehemence pictured the time "when a Mammonite mother kills her babe for a burial fee; and Timour Mammon grins on a pile of children's bones." But apart from this sudden outburst, it is scarcely accurate to accuse the mother or father of our little ones, however poor, of wilful neglect or indifference, and to make such a statement rashly or inconsiderately would be resented as a somewhat serious insult. The poor are as good to their children, as a rule, as they are considerate one towards another. But it seems, with all their natural affection, they are strangely careless. A representation has been made to the coroner of the district by the senior house-surgeon of Guy's Hospital of the frightful mortality amongst children caused by burns and scalds. A considerable portion of the daily work of a hospital is taken up on attending to the accidents that occur to these suffering children. The parents go out to work, and the family is left in charge of some well-meaning but helpless child. The fires left burning in the grate are unprotected, or the kettle is dragged off the coals and scalds the innocent baby. It is a mercy if the house is not burned down, with all its contents. No one imagines for an instant there is any wilfulness in all this: it arises from neglect and culpable carelessness, that is all. Too much trust is placed on the abnormal cleverness of the child in charge or the watchful eye of the neighbour. But so many lives have been lost that it is seriously recommended that a coroner shall be able to fine the parents found guilty of this extraordinary neglect. Foreigners would draw an ugly deduction from the fact of mother or father working in peace whilst their children were in danger; but judicious fines for bad proved cases would be better than indiscriminate charges of manslaughter.

Tradition is highly valued in this country, but occasionally it gives rise to extraordinary inconsistencies. How, for instance, can it possibly interest the majority of the public, ever clamouring for the news of the world, and getting a very limited supply even of home history, to be favoured day after day with accounts of the training and practice of the University crews, who will not row in public until just before Easter? Rowing cannot possibly be a popular pastime at this moment: according to their own showing, the crews can scarcely get through the ice; so what can there be interesting, as a question of art or an item of news, to learn how one crew went out for a paddle and was stopped, and the other gazed upon an impossible stream from the towing-path? If this were an important scientific struggle—an attempt to get to the North Pole, or something quite out of the common—it would not so much signify; but the oarsmen are confessedly amateurs, and can teach no one anything that is not known already. The excitement, when it comes, is well enough in its way; but these are early days for pretending there is the slightest interest in the relative merit of the combatants. *Toujours perdrix!*

When he has got an interesting subject to write about, Dr. William Howard Russell is still unrivalled as a correspondent, and can describe a battle with an amount of vivid power and picturesque force that has never, after all, been equalled by any of his clever followers. Possibly he is not practised in the mere trial of endurance that enables a man to write half asleep, at telegraph-offices, on horseback, riding countless miles, and taxing human strength to its utmost limit; but give him such a scene as that at Secokuni's stronghold and he is found as brilliant and as exhilarating as in his best days in the Crimea. We seem to see painted clearly before us the spirit and the vigour of that sharp, smart, and short attack. The peculiarity of each English officer is depicted with an almost Homeric fidelity. We hear the sharp ping of the revolver and the lusty cheers of the British soldiery as they mount the rocky stronghold; and by the mere force of description we are animated with the spirit of the scene. The war-horse neighs at the scent of battle, and a fire is given to the correspondent's pen; but it is disciplined by art.

Death is desperately hard on the volunteers attached to our modern armies, and is wont to lay his bony fingers on the brave shoulders of many a good fellow. The Prussian campaign knocked out of the list of the British Army poor Kit Pemberton, a charming companion, admirable amateur actor, and one of the most popular officers in the Guards. He was killed by a treacherous bullet whilst attached to the Prussian head-quarter staff, and acting as special correspondent to the *Times*. The Ashantee campaign took away from us another brave and genial gentleman, Captain Herbert Thompson—brother of Alfred Thompson, the artist—who volunteered for active service and died in harness. And now there is yet another victim at the Cape. The young Prince Napoleon and Captain Campbell, of the Guards, are not alone on the death-roll. Yet another is added in Mr. A. H. Campbell, the hero of the Shipka Pass, a man of adventure, determined energy and daring, who, although a civilian, died bravely fighting for his country at the storming of Secokuni's stronghold.

A proposal has been made to extend the boundaries of Bristol by taking in three or four of the more populous suburbs, raising the population to nearly 250,000, and thus strengthening the demand of the city for a third member.

The Right Hon. G. Selater-Booth, President of the Local Government Board, has appointed Mr. Frederick Gage Heygate to be his private secretary, in the room of Sir Brydges Powell Henniker, Bart., appointed Registrar-General.

Mr. F. Charsley, Registrar of Eton College, has offered to give Botham Hotel, opposite Salt-hill, near Slough, as a site for the College for the Blind, for which the late Mr. Gardner, father-in-law of Mr. R. Richardson Gardner, the member for Windsor, bequeathed the sum of £300,000.

Mr. W. Baxter presided on Monday afternoon at the annual meeting of the Leeds Chamber of Commerce. In the course of his remarks on the improved condition of trade, the President said that during the early part of last year the state of trade was the reverse of satisfactory, and expressed a hope that the prospects now before them were brighter. He stated that a considerable improvement had shown itself in almost every branch of industry.

The Town Trustees of Sheffield have inherited a large addition to their funds by the death of Mrs. Bailey, of Cheltenham. They became possessed of the remainder of a bequest of £90,000, which was left to the town by her brother-in-law, Mr. Samuel Bailey. The interest of the bequest has to be applied to objects of utility not of an ecclesiastical nature. Already the Town Trustees have carried out important improvements by the interest of that part of the bequest which they had received.

THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF CANADA.

A meeting of the members of the Royal Colonial Institute was held on Tuesday evening at the Pall Mall, Regent-street—the Duke of Manchester presiding. Mr. Frederick Young, the hon. secretary of the institute, read a paper on behalf of Mr. J. G. Bourinot, Clerk-Assistant of the House of Commons of Canada, entitled "The National Development of Canada."

After dealing at considerable length with the struggles of the colony in question for political freedom, the writer stated it had been said that the configuration of Canada had its disadvantages, from its lack of breadth and compactness as compared with the United States with its wider expanse of territory and its greater and more available extent of seacoast on two oceans. But Canada possessed in the St. Lawrence a great natural artery of commerce to which America could offer no rival. He considered it inevitable that sooner or later the bulk of western produce must find its way to Europe through this river, with its splendid system of canals, which so admirably illustrated the enterprise of Canada. That dominion had ports on her eastern seaboard open at all seasons, and nearer to Europe than were any of the American harbours, and the time was not far distant when the Atlantic entrepôt of trade would be the port of Louisburg, which once played so important a part in the conflict between England and France for empire on this continent. The fisheries of the maritime provinces were the envy of the United States, whilst the mineral resources of coal and iron on the Atlantic and Pacific coast offered unrivalled means of wealth and enterprise in the future. In the north-west there was a grain-producing region in course of development far greater in value and extent than any possessed by the United States. All these were the elements of a prosperous nation, whose population in a few decades should be continuous from Ontario to Vancouver.

It required no gift of political prophesy to see that the time must sooner or later come when the relations between the parent State and her Canadian dependency must be placed on some more substantial basis. Three destinies were obviously open to Canada—annexation, independence, or consolidation into the Empire, absorption by the United States being a question which need hardly be discussed nowadays. The first two alternatives were, in Mr. Bourinot's paper, considered decidedly unlikely. The present relations between the parent State and its dependencies were anomalous and inconsistent in many ways, the union between them being to a great extent nominal in its nature, and based on a mere sentiment. Canada owed allegiance to the Sovereign of England, but in all other respects occupied the position of an independent State; while, on the other hand, England might draw the whole Empire into war; and though colonists would be affected more or less by the results, they had no opportunity of expressing their approval or disapproval of the policy. In several respects the interests of Canada and the Empire ought to be identical, it being assuredly anomalous that one section of the Empire should have a fiscal policy entirely distinct from that of the other. At the present time the public men of Canada were opening up to civilisation a vast wilderness in the north-west, capable of giving food to many millions, and were using their best efforts to connect that region with the railway system of Canada and the United States. The construction of a Canadian Pacific Railway must have a remarkable influence on the future of the Empire on this continent, for it would carry along with it the elements of wealth and greatness, open up a road to Asiatic seas through British territory, and give continuity and stability to a new nationality, stretching from ocean to ocean, whose ultimate destiny could best be controlled by an Imperial policy in the present, which would unmistakably prove that the interest of the parent State and its dependency are closely identical.

The isolation of the colonies from the Empire was the inevitable sequence of the present colonial system. Consolidation might be the rule as respected the colonies *per se*, but disintegration was certainly the effect in the Empire as a whole. He thought, were a plan for an Imperial Federation which would make the British Empire exist in fact as well as in name, once started, a practical movement would be made to promote so desirable a project. The necessities of the Empire must at last make this momentous question one of the practical issues of the day. In the meantime, the colonial dependencies must continue their work of national development in that courageous and enterprising spirit which their people inherited from the parent races, and in the hope that when the time came for solving their true destiny among the nations, their place would be found not one of isolation from the parent State, but one of more intimate connection, which would elevate them above the mere subordinate part they now played, and give them their true rank in that noble theatre of action which the Empire should offer to all its sons, whether they lived in the "old home" or in the colonial communities which encircle the globe.

The discussion on the paper was opened by Mr. Dowie, Q.C., of Canada, who justified the imposition of duties by the colonies on imports on account of the necessity of raising the means of administration, and was followed by Mr. Bourne and the Rev. A. Styleman Herring, M.A., Rector of St. Paul's, Clerkenwell. Mr. F. Young, in reply, supported the views of the paper in regard to federation.

Messrs. Marcus Ward and Co. are early in the field with a choice assortment of valentines.

From a report presented to the first annual meeting of subscribers to the Stephenson Memorial Hall at Chesterfield on Monday, it appears that the total cost of the building was £13,362, and a sum of £5238 still remains unpaid.

An explosion took place on Wednesday morning in the Fair Lady Colliery Pit, Appledale, Staffordshire, where many lives were lost a few months ago. Nearly eighty persons were in the pit, and of these it is believed not more than six will survive.

Tuesday's *Gazette* announces the appointments of Lieutenant-Colonel Z. S. Bayly, of the Cape Mounted Riflemen, to be a Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George; and of Mr. G. F. N. B. Ammesley, now British Vice-Consul at Trinidad de Cuba, to be her Majesty's Consul in Surinam.

The extension of the Yarmouth and North Norfolk Railway, from Marham to Catfield, has been opened for traffic, having been previously inspected by Major-General Hutchinson on behalf of the Board of Trade. The line is being further extended from Catfield to Northam. The newly-completed section comprises a bridge of some extent over the Thirne at Potter-Heigham.

The Earl of Derby presided on Monday at the annual meeting of the Manchester Royal Botanical and Horticultural Society. Some discussion took place on the financial position of the society, and the noble President expressed a desire to see some effort made similar to that which resulted so successfully a few years ago to remove the debt which still encumbers it. He offered to put down £100, provided that in the course of the year £900 more was raised for the same purpose.

METROPOLITAN NEWS.

The anniversary festival of the Printers' Pension Corporation will be held on May 11, the Lord Mayor presiding.

Mr. Grantham, M.P. for East Surrey, took part last Saturday evening in the opening of a new coffee tavern, called the Rob Roy, at Penge.

A large audience crowded the theatre of the London Institution on Monday to listen to a lecture on the Leyden Jar, by Mr. E. H. Gordon.

The London Financial Association have issued a notice to the effect that they are prepared to let on lease, from May 5 next, or to sell, the Alexandra Palace and Park and out-buildings, with the surrounding land.

Mr. Henry Trentham Butlin, F.R.C.S., of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and a Jacksonian Prize Essayist, has been elected an "Erasmus Wilson" Professor for the present year at the Royal College of Surgeons. His course will consist of three lectures on the structure and nature of certain tumours.

The fifth series of free popular lectures at the Working Men's College, Great Ormond-street, began last Saturday evening with a lecture on "The Merchant of Venice," by Professor J. W. Hales, M.A. The chair was taken by Mr. R. B. Litchfield, B.A.

The annual conference of the Teachers' Association was held at the close of last week in the theatre of the Society of Arts. One of the resolutions on Friday, declaring that it was desirable and advantageous to bring up children to the practice of total abstinence, was adopted unanimously.

A meeting of the Victoria (Philosophical) Institute took place on Monday evening, when a paper was read upon "The Organ of Mind," by the Rev. Dr. Fisher. The discussion was begun by communications from Dr. Radcliffe, Dr. Bateman, and others being read.

An especial Grand Lodge of Freemasons was held last Saturday at Freemasons' Hall for the appointment and investiture of a Grand Secretary. The choice is in the gift of the Prince of Wales, the Grand Master, and it fell upon Lieutenant-Colonel Shadwell H. Clerke, one of the Past Grand Deacons, who was duly invested by his Royal Highness.

The Lord President of the Council has appointed Mr. Caspar Purdon Clarke to the charge of the Indian Museum, and Dr. Birdwood, C.S.I., of the India Office, Professional Referee for the Indian Museum. Dr. Birdwood has also been desired to prepare a popular handbook on Indian art, to be published at the reopening of the museum on May 1 next.

On Tuesday the Lord Mayor received a deputation who submitted an outline of the arrangements contemplated for the celebration in June of the centenary of Sunday schools. An International Convention of Sunday School Workers is to begin on June 28, and the Lord Mayor has placed at the disposal of the promoters either of the large Corporation halls.

The weekly return of metropolitan pauperism shows that the total number of paupers on the last day of the second week in January was 92,895, of whom 47,815 were in workhouses, and 45,080 received outdoor relief. Compared with the corresponding weeks in the years 1878, 1877, and 1876, these figures show an increase of 7591, 9967, and 9162 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 689, of whom 571 were men, 104 women, and 14 children under sixteen.

A pastoral letter from Cardinal Manning was read in all the churches of his diocese on Sunday calling upon the faithful to make a solemn act of reparation for the "outrage to the Person of our Divine Lord and Redeemer" committed on Saturday week at the altar of the Italian Church, Hatton-garden. Prayers and ceremonies prescribed for the purpose were carried out yesterday, and a "plenary indulgence" was granted to those who complied with certain conditions.

The Lady Mayoress (Lady Truscott) began her receptions at the Mansion House on Tuesday afternoon, and will continue them on the first and third Tuesdays in each succeeding month, from three o'clock until five.—We are requested to state that the Lady Mayoress regrets that, owing to the great number of acceptances to the fancy-dress ball at the Mansion House on Jan. 29, the invitation list has been obliged to be closed. This intimation must be accepted as a reply to the numerous applications sent to her on the subject.

A deputation of cabmen had an interview on Monday with the Society for the Prevention of Street Accidents and Dangerous Driving. Communications had been received by the secretary from the British Consuls at Vienna and Berlin which stated that in those cities it is compulsory upon every vehicle to carry lights after dark. The Rev. W. Rogers, chairman of the meeting, said at the public meeting about to be held at the Mansion House a resolution in favour of a similar law being passed for this country would be proposed. The society disavowed any hostility to cabmen; and, several members of the deputation having expressed their opinions, the meeting adjourned.

The first honours examination of the Incorporated Law Society, pursuant to the society's rules of March 28 last, was held on the 16th inst. in the Examination Hall of the Law Institution, Chancery-lane, London. The examination was conducted by the examination committee of the council, assisted by paid examiners, who have been recently appointed. The examination was only open to candidates under twenty-six years of age, and it was upon the subjects specified for the final examination in the society's regulations of November, 1877. We learn from the *Law Times* that the honorary list will be arranged in three classes, and for this purpose the marks obtained by each candidate at the final examination on the two previous days will also be taken into consideration.

The Commissioners for the Melbourne Exhibition, which will open on Oct. 1, have delegated all matters connected with the allotment of space to countries of Europe and America to their London committee, and have sent Mr. G. Collins Levy, C.M.G., to assist the London committee. The applications for space are as follows:—France, 75,000 square feet; Germany, 65,000; Italy, 42,000; United States, 30,000; Belgium, 25,000; Austria, 22,000; Holland, 10,000; Switzerland, 3000; other countries, 10,000. The demand for space from British exhibitors amounts to 180,000 square feet. All information on the subject may be obtained on application at the offices of the Agent-General for Victoria, 8, Victoria Chambers, Victoria-street, S.W.

By invitation of the Dean of Westminster about 230 members of working men's clubs attended a soirée at Westminster on Monday evening. Tea was served at eight o'clock in the College Hall. Afterwards, Dr. Stanley, in some entertaining conversational remarks, discoursed graphically and historically of the ancient apartment in which the meal had been served, and also of Jerusalem Chamber, Jericho Parlour, and other portions of the venerable pile. Before he left to conduct his guests on a short inspection, Mr. Hodgson Pratt expressed the admiration and affection in which the Dean was held by those present, who owed him a deep debt of gratitude for the interest which he, as president of the Club Union, had shown in the moral and social welfare of the working men.

Mr. James Lowe, of Hackney, afterwards proposed, and Mr. Fishbourne, of Soho, seconded a vote of thanks to the Dean for his kind invitation and instructive address. Amongst those present were Lord Hatherley (who after tea made a few complimentary remarks about the Dean), the Rev. W. Rogers, of Bishopsgate, Mr. T. Hughes, Q.C., and several other gentlemen interested in labour questions. The visitors spent some time in inspecting the pictures and the various works of art and antiquity in the deanery.

The Clothworkers' Company offer through the Yorkshire Union of Mechanics' Institutes a series of prizes, amounting in the total to £90, for designs in eleven classes in textile fabrics. These prizes, the *City Press* states, are intended as a special encouragement of originality in thought and design, and will be awarded in accordance with that object. The court of this company made the following votes at their last monthly meeting:—£500 to make up the total amount of the cost of the new Clothworkers' Hall, in connection with the North London Collegiate and Camden Schools for Girls, as now finally complete (£3000)—i.e., over and above £2500 previously voted and paid; £105 to the Princess Helena Cottage; £21 to the National Health Society; and £21 to the Church of England Temperance Society.

The Christmas election of children into the Asylum for Fatherless Children, which was founded by the late Dr. Andrew Reed, in 1844, for nursing and educating orphans through the whole period of infancy and childhood, on liberal and not exclusive principles, was held on Tuesday at the City Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street. Fifteen children—nine boys and six girls—were elected to the benefits of the charity out of a list of 102 approved candidates. Mr. N. J. Powell presided, and stated that the asylum could accommodate only 300 children, and there were at the present time 285 within its walls. As, however, ample room for additional buildings existed on the grounds belonging to the institution, the managers hoped that additional subscribers would be forthcoming to enable them to meet the requirements of the charity.

There were 2595 births and 1730 deaths registered in London last week. Allowing for increase of population, the births were 61 and the deaths 30 below the average numbers in the corresponding week of the last ten years. The deaths included 4 from small-pox, 40 from measles, 89 from scarlet fever, 10 from diphtheria, 114 from whooping-cough, 17 from different forms of fever, and 9 from diarrhoea. During last year 458 deaths from smallpox were registered in London, against 2544 and 1416 in the two preceding years. In Greater London 3126 births and 2049 deaths were registered. The mean temperature of the air was 33.1 deg., and 5.2 deg. below the average. The duration of registered bright sunshine in the week was 5.1 hours (against 8.6 hours at Glynde-place, Lewes), the sun being above the horizon during 57.6 hours; the recorded duration of sunshine was, therefore, equal to 9 per cent of its possible duration.

At a recent meeting of the Royal Horticultural Society an exhibition of "home-grown" watercresses was made by Mr. Shirley Hibberd, of Stoke Newington, who has given much attention to this branch of domestic horticulture. The exhibition consisted of a series of shallow pans, 15 in. in diameter, each filled with a luxuriant growth of tender cresses, presenting a very fresh and elegant appearance. Mr. Hibberd's object in presenting these to the notice of the society was to show that the pan culture of the watercress may be profitably pursued with the aid of a frame or cool plant-house during the severest winter weather. The cresses shown were produced in the course of six weeks, and if daily gathered from for the table would last about the same length of time, affording an abundant supply of this delicious and wholesome salad. The Fruit and Vegetable Committee conferred upon them the certificate of "cultural commendation."

The annual meeting of the friends of the Royal Ear Hospital, the oldest of the special hospitals in London, was held on the 15th inst. at the rooms of the institution, in Frith-street, Soho. Last year the attendances for treatment reached 7000, at which more than 2000 separate cases were dealt with. Many cases might be more successfully treated, provided an in-patient department were added to the arrangements of the hospital, and a proposal that this should be done was warmly advocated by Dr. Urban Pritchard, F.R.C.S., and Dr. Farquhar Matheson, C.M., the surgeons. But as the accounts, which were audited and passed at the meeting, showed a balance of nearly £150 due to the treasurer, it was decided to remit the matter to a sub-committee for report, and, in the meantime, to make a special appeal for subscriptions towards so desirable an object, and towards the funds of the hospital generally.

The Royal Historical Society met in the rooms, 22, Albemarle-street, on the 15th inst.—Mr. James Heywood, F.R.S., presiding. Papers were read by Mr. Sydney Robjohns on the Jani Anglorum, the Epinomis, and other works of John Selden; also by the Rev. J. G. Fleay on the known lists of Actors, from the opening of London theatres in 1577 to their closing in 1640, as connected with the history and literature of England. Discussions followed the reading of both papers, and it was remarked by several of the speakers that Mr. Fleay had succeeded in throwing much new and important light on Shakspeare in his character as a player, and had also satisfactorily accounted for certain plays being erroneously ascribed to the great dramatist. It was stated by several speakers, including the secretary, that Mr. Fleay's paper was, in an historical point of view, one of the most important ever read at any of the society's meetings; and it was agreed that it should be printed in vol. ix. of the society's Transactions. Five members were admitted, and many valuable books received as gifts to the library.

Over a thousand of the unemployed workmen in London held a meeting in Hyde Park last Saturday, at which it was stated that there were many thousands of respectable men at the present moment in the metropolis who were unable to obtain work. In the building trade alone there were, it was said, 30,000 men out of employment. It was made a subject of much complaint that the public bodies were not proceeding with the works of utility already decided upon, thus at the same time providing work and economising the ratepayers' money. At a subsequent interview of the leaders of the meeting with the Lord Mayor, his Lordship promised to use his influence with the City Corporation to find the men some employment. He, however, promised those who had come in the procession a quantity of meat which was at his disposal, if they would apply at the Mansion House on Monday, and "could satisfy him or the police authorities that they were really peaceful, sober, and industrious men and that their poverty was brought about by circumstances over which they had no control." In response to this invitation, several hundred unemployed men applied at the Mansion House on Monday for relief. As each came up he was asked questions as to what had been the nature of his employment and for whom he had worked, and by this means the bona fide unemployed were ascertained. On being passed, each applicant received a printed ticket entitling him to a 2lb. can of meat. On Tuesday a great crowd of unemployed men again went to

the Mansion House in the anticipation of getting orders for food, which, by a stretch of imagination, their leaders had represented the Lord Mayor as having promised them. All that could be done was to dispose of the few remaining tins of American corned beef, with which the Lord Mayor had been presented. These relieved momentarily the more necessitous cases; the others had to be refused.

THE DISTRESS IN IRELAND.

The deplorable condition of large numbers of the peasantry, small tenants of land and cottiers, in the western parts of Ireland, continues to be a matter of grave public anxiety. From Connemara and the shores of the Bay of Galway, round those of Mayo, Sligo, and Donegal, throughout the poorer agricultural districts in the bleak and barren situations not far from the Atlantic, there is real distress among this helpless class of people. In most other Irish counties we do not hear of such a bad state of things; and it is probably less than one-fifth of the whole population who are specially affected by it. "The main reason," says a very competent witness, "of the distress which is chronic in Western Connaught appears to be over-population, and the difference between the present and the former emergency is to be measured by the shrunken census. The country is too poor to support great numbers of people. The climate is detestable, not much worse, perhaps, than Mull or Skye, but with far less capital and energy to counteract it. Absenteeism has done its worst here, but things are so hopeless that the most energetic resident's heart might well fail him. The West will not sustain a great population, but it would feed an enormously greater number of cattle than it does at present. The only real remedy for the perennial misery seems to be emigration." The palliative supplied by the English demand for Connaught labour is, in fact, partial emigration. Agricultural depression in England has this year weakened the demand for Irish labour. Dr. Neilson Hancock, a very high authority, tell us, through the *Fortnightly Review*, that the loss to Mayo alone from this cause is not far short of £100,000. Such a fine must press very hardly upon people accustomed to live on a straw a day. Great numbers are always obliged to buy meal on credit, and to pay exorbitant interest on the debt. This is the "gombeen" system of which we have heard so much lately. The creditors have of late been putting an extreme pressure on the peasantry indebted to them; and a general attempt has been made, in the interest of usurious petty dealers and money-lenders, to decry the landlord's claim of rent, and to get up an agitation against its payment, so that the little which the tenants can pay should go to the above-mentioned class.

Mr. Vere Foster, of Belfast, has offered the magnificent sum of £15,000 to assist emigration from the counties of Donegal, Clare, Kerry, Cork, and the province of Connaught. He makes this offer in a letter addressed to Mr. Parnell, M.P., first stating his objections to Mr. Parnell's scheme of compulsory subdivision of the land held by the present Irish landlords, followed by compensation from the Government, by whom it would be afterwards sold to peasant proprietors. Mr. Vere Foster equally desires the multiplication of small holdings of freehold, which, he argues, would be promoted by the abolition of the laws of primogeniture and entail, and by the simplification of legal proceedings for the transfer of ownership in land. He invites attention to a scheme of assisted emigration as the most certain mode of permanently relieving the ever-recurring distress in the west of Ireland. Between twenty and thirty years ago he took part in assisting emigration from Ireland to America, a project which was attended with the best results. He feels sure that such a work would receive the hearty co-operation of the American people, and he invites Mr. Parnell to urge it on their consideration. The proposal Mr. Foster makes is to subscribe towards the proposed Emigration Fund at the rate of £2 for each young man or woman between eighteen and thirty-five years of age, in the proportion of one man to two women, because men are better able to provide for themselves. This offer is to hold good until the end of the year, and the sum is not to exceed £15,000.

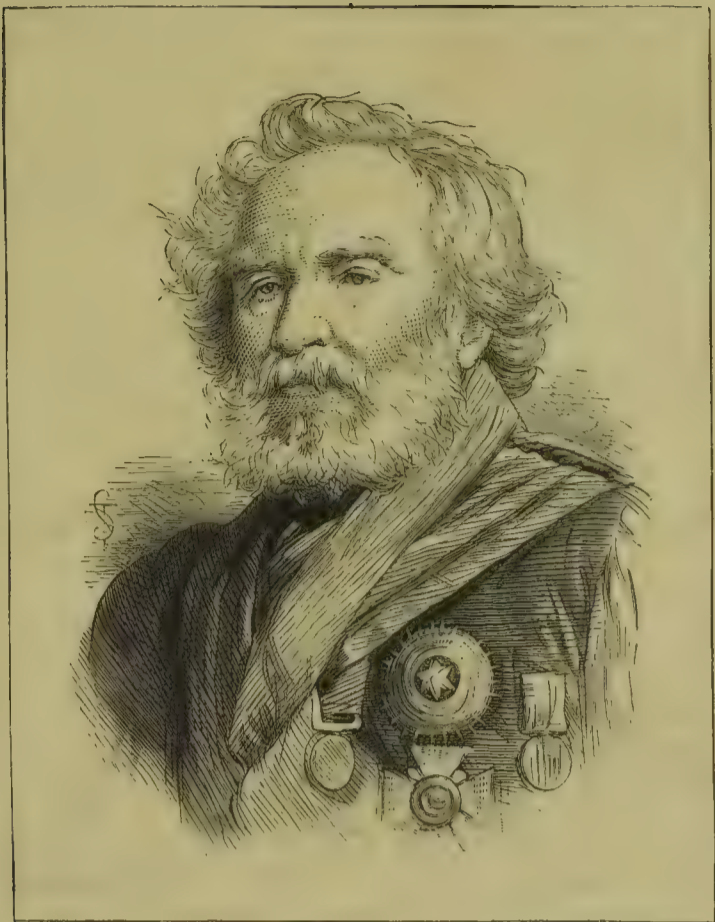
The Government have made an important change in their policy with respect to the condition of the country. They have resolved to grant loans for drainage works in distressed districts on more liberal terms, to extend the number of years during which repayment will not be required, and to bear preliminary expenses themselves. They will also increase the inducements to Boards of Guardians for the execution of sanitary works; and they will apply to Parliament to sanction the appropriation of a quarter of a million out of the Church surplus for relief works to be carried on by the Board of Works, and for the formation of Baronial Sessions to determine their nature. It has been pointed out, that not only drainage of land, but the planting of trees, might be profitably undertaken by the Government, or by the local authorities, in Western Connaught. The want of fuel, as well as of timber for building and other industries, is severely felt in that country; and much of the land is said to be well adapted for plantations. We believe that, in the Landes of South-Western France, as mentioned by us in another article this week, much benefit has accrued, both to the State and to the population, from improvements of that nature. Again, the construction of local highways and branch roads is urgently required, where many parishes are isolated by mountains, bogs, lakes, or arms of the sea, and are deprived of access to a market. Along the sea-coast, more particularly in Donegal and Sligo, the want of harbour accommodation for fishing-boats, in the rough weather so often prevailing, seems to prevent many poor families gaining a livelihood. These works, it is thought, might well be undertaken or assisted by public authority, and would go far to remedy the depressed condition of the people.

We shall publish a series of Illustrations, from Sketches by our Special Artists, of the aspects of the country and its inhabitants and of the scenes occasioned by the recent popular agitation, and by the resistance to the collection of rent or to the enforcement of legal warrants, as well as the holding of tumultuous or seditious meetings. Our Illustration presented this week is that of an ordinary market for the sale of turf, in a small town of the South of Ireland.

The proceedings of organised social and political agitators, on the one hand, with their formation of "Tenants' Clubs," under the direction of the Irish Land League in Dublin, and the reports of Mr. Parnell's speeches and semi-official reception in the United States of America, have not escaped notice. This phase of political discontent was exhibited also in the annual meeting of the Irish Home-Rule Members' League at Dublin in the present week. On the other hand, there is a determination among those who are sincerely concerned in relieving Irish distress not to suffer its claims to be prejudiced by any tricks of faction. The charitable fund subscribed at the request of the Duchess of Marlborough, wife of the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, continues to receive contributions from this country. The London Mansion House Committee had raised on Monday last £8600, and a meeting was held on Tuesday at Liverpool, convened by the Mayor, at which £3000 was at once subscribed.



IRISH SKETCHES: TURF MARKET IN THE SOUTH OF IRELAND.—SEE PAGE 83.



THE LATE GENERAL SIR JOHN LOW, K.C.B., G.C.S.I.



THE LATE CAPTAIN BUTSON, 9TH LANCERS, KILLED AT CABUL.

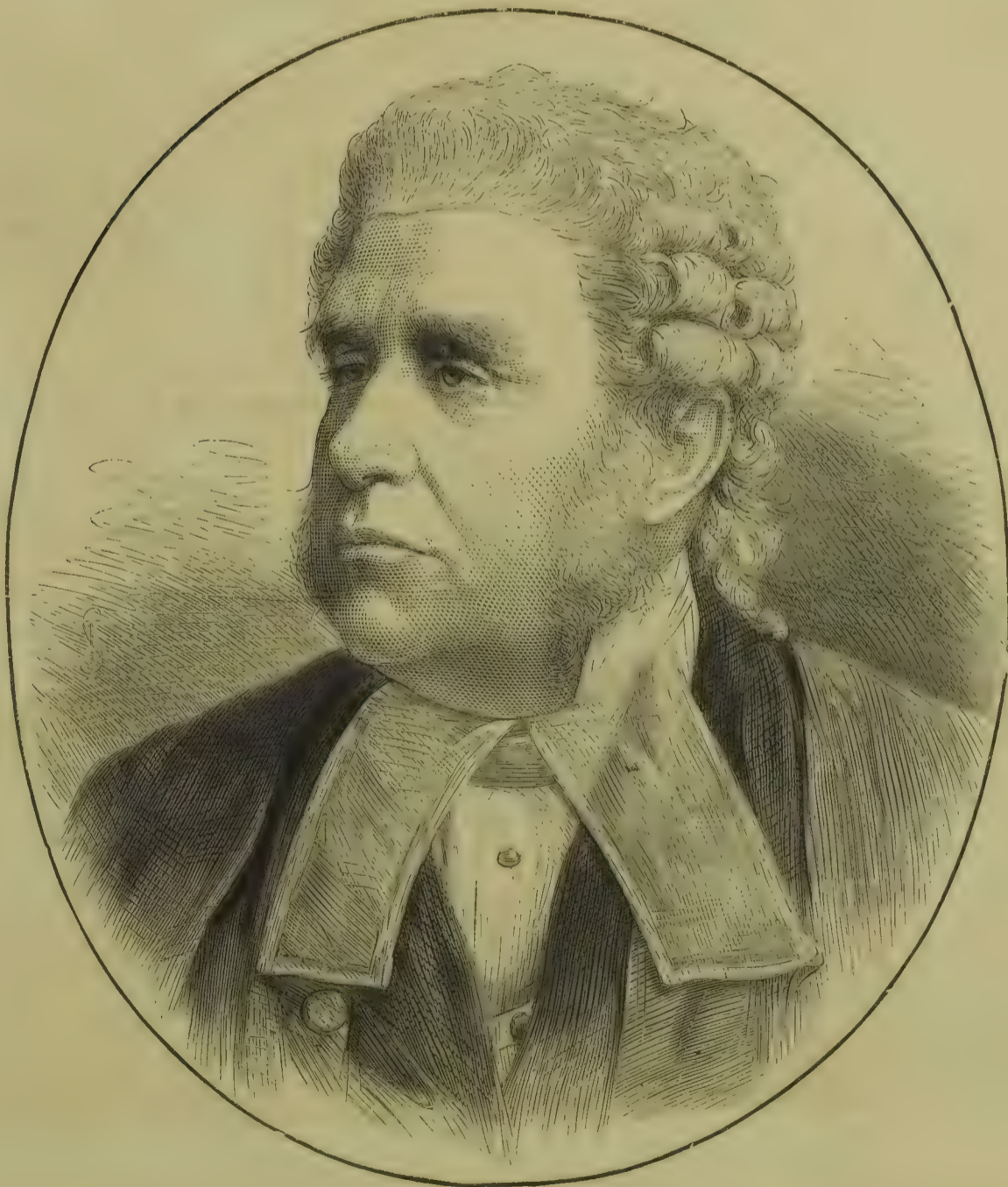
MR. SERJEANT PARRY.

A portrait is now given of this esteemed member of the legal profession, whose death, on the 10th inst., has been recorded. Mr. John Humffreys Parry, Serjeant-at-law, was in the sixty-fourth year of his age. He was the son of Mr. J. H. Parry, Q.C., an eminent barrister, scholar, and antiquary, who published several works treating of Welsh literary history. He was in early life employed in the British Museum Library, but was called to the Bar at the Middle Temple in Trinity Term, 1843, and joined the Home Circuit, of which he became one of the acknowledged leaders. He also practised at the Central Criminal Court and at the Middlesex Sessions, and enjoyed a lucrative practice in arbitration cases. He received a Serjeant's coif in 1856, and a patent of precedence in 1864. The ancient order of Serjeants is now almost become extinct. The late Serjeant made several attempts to obtain a seat in Parliament. Among others, he contested Norwich in the advanced Liberal interest at the general election of 1847 against Sir Samuel Morton Peto and the Marquis of Douro, now Duke of Wellington; and again, in 1857, he was defeated in an attempt to contest the borough of Finsbury against Mr. T. S. Duncombe and Mr. William Cox.

The portrait is from a photograph by the London Stereoscopic Company.

CAPT. BUTSON.

Among the officers belonging to the army under General Sir F. Roberts at Cabul, who



THE LATE MR. SERJEANT PARRY.

were killed in the fighting that took place between Dec. 11 and Dec. 15, on the hills south of that city, was Captain Strange Gould Butson, of the 9th (Queen's Royal) Lancers, aide-de-camp to Brigadier-General Massy, in command of the cavalry. This gallant officer was eldest son of the Ven. and Rev. C. Gould Butson, of St. Brandon's, near Eyrecourt, in the county of Galway, Dean of Kilmacduagh, and Incumbent of Eyrecourt; his mother was of the family of Eyre Maunsell, of Fort Eyre, in that county. He entered the regiment in July, 1870, and his commission of Captain bore date Feb. 16, 1878. He was killed on the 15th ult., while leading a charge of the Lancers against a numerous body of the Afghans, strongly posted, and armed with Snider rifles.

The portrait is from a photograph by L. Werner, of Dublin.

GENERAL SIR JOHN LOW, K.C.B.

This veteran officer, long engaged in the military and diplomatic service of the East Indian Company, died on the 10th inst., at the great age of ninety-one. He was a native of Fifehire, and was educated at St. Andrew's, but joined the Madras Army at an early age. He served in the Pindarrie and Mahratta wars, and in the expedition of 1811 to Java, with much credit as a soldier. But his proficiency in languages caused him to be employed by Sir John Malcolm in various political negotiations. He was British Resident at Gwalior in 1830, and during eleven years at Lucknow in the same capacity. Colonel Low



LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL

DRAWN BY S. READ.

was rewarded in 1842 with the dignity of C.B., at which time he came home for five years, but went back to hold the post of British Government Agent in Rajpootana. In 1852, at the special request of Lord Dalhousie, he became Resident at the Court of the Nizam. After two years at Hyderabad, performing the most important services, he became military member of the Supreme Council of the Governor-General at Calcutta. He was one of Lord Canning's most trusted and useful advisers during the Sepoy Mutiny War of 1857. When that conflict was over, General Low retired from active life. In 1862 he was made a Knight Commander of the Bath, and in 1873 a Knight Grand Cross of the Star of India. During fifty years' Indian service, his conduct won the repeated praises of successive Governors-General, the Marquis of Hastings, Earl Amherst, Lord William Bentinck, Lord Auckland, the Earl of Ellenborough, Lord Dalhousie, and Lord Canning. No one had such a profound and intimate acquaintance with the native princes of India. He married a sister of the late General Sir Richmond Shakespear, and has left four sons, one of whom is Mr. Malcolm Low, now a candidate for the representation of St. Andrew's in Parliament.

The portrait is from a photograph by Mr. T. Rodger, of St. Andrew's.

POLITICAL.

The cheerfulness which the Earl of Beaconsfield has the credit of being able to instil into his colleagues would seem to have been imparted pretty freely at the first of the Cabinet Councils held last week. At any rate, hastening from the Downing-street gathering at express speed, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the First Lord of the Admiralty paid flying visits on the evening of the 15th inst. to two local centres of Conservative organisation, for the purpose of relieving their minds with regard to the political situation. Sir Stafford Northcote was so lively in twitting Sir William Harcourt with his deliverances as a modern Zadkiel that it almost appeared as if the right hon. Baronet had obtained an advance-sheet of our last Number, and had digested our colloquial summary of the hon. and learned member's oracular and Zadkielite predictions ere he sat down to dine with the Stroud Conservative Benefit Society. Replying to the eulogiums passed by Mr. J. R. Yorke, M.P., upon his public conduct, the Chancellor of the Exchequer hoped that his Stroud speech would be the last he would be called upon to deliver before the reassembling of Parliament (which is to be opened by her Majesty the Queen in person on the 5th of next month, we are glad to hear). The usual generalities were soon abandoned, and quickly was Sir William Harcourt charged with being desirous of emulating "the fame of the author of 'Zadkiel's Almanac.'" Analysing the predictions of the hon. and learned member in this capacity, Sir Stafford categorically controverted his conclusions, and said that Rounclia had not refused her Constitution, nor had war broken out in Bulgaria; whilst, as for the harbour at Cyprus, Admiral Hornby had last October sailed in double column with six ships of war—and then sailed out again. Mr. Gladstone's onslaught on the Budgets was then deprecated; but Sir William Harcourt was soon returned to, and he was challenged to deny that the British Fleet prevented the Russians from entering Constantinople, and that the policy of the Government generally had raised England in the estimation of foreign nations. So far from home affairs having been neglected, had not the Ministry dealt with friendly societies, artisans' dwellings, sanitary matters, and Poor Law amendments. Self-reliance was what the Government had striven to teach the people, who would recover by-and-by—but must not be in a hurry!—from the existing depression. The distress in Ireland, had from the first received the anxious and serious consideration of the Government, who had taken steps to grant relief by prudent means. Finally, the Conservative Benefit Society of Stroud came in for the Chancellor of the Exchequer's concluding words of praise. The speech made by Mr. W. H. Smith the same evening at the Sutton (Mid-Surrey) Conservative Association was of a similar nature, save that it bore that air of injured innocence which the right hon. gentleman can so well assume in complaining of the attacks of Liberal adversaries. "My Lord Egmont" was in the chair, and, addressing his Lordship and the sprinkling of members who gave distinction to the gathering, the First Lord of the Admiralty adopted from the first an exalted tone of patriotism, which he fairly maintained to the rousing peroration. The Ministry had inherited the Eastern Question from their Liberal predecessors, and had treated it on the lines sanctioned by the past—the insistence on the Porte's reform of its administration in Turkey, and a resolve to check Russia's advance in that direction. Government policy in Turkey and in Afghanistan had been supported alike by the Conservative party and by independent Radicals and Liberals; and no little dexterity was shown by Mr. Smith—though by a plausible use of figures the fallacy of which he would be the first to detect if used against him, as a business man—in an endeavour to show by references to the recent totals of the National Debt that the country was, if anything, more economically ruled by the Beaconsfield Administration than it was by the Gladstone Ministry. The right honourable gentleman reaffirmed that the Government would see that no one died of hunger in Ireland; disposed of Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Bright, to his own satisfaction, in one sentence; and ended with a proud declaration that England's place should be upheld in the world's councils. In passing, it may here be stated that the same confident tone has animated the lively speeches which Lord George Hamilton has been called upon to make on behalf of Lord Dalkeith in Midlothian, and also the animated and effective address delivered by Mr. Edward Stanhope on Monday night in introducing Mr. Barclay as the Conservative candidate for Hackney.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer has issued the customary circular soliciting the supporters of the Ministry to be in their places at the opening of Parliament, "as important business will be brought forward immediately."

Mr. Bright is in the habit of settling himself comfortably in his seat on the front Opposition bench when Sir William Harcourt rises to address the House, and over the face of the right hon. member for Birmingham is wont to steal a look as of keen anticipation of the pleasure to come from listening to the robust orator who delights in planting blows which may well remind his appreciative listener of the hard knocks he himself freely distributed in the days of his prime as a political gladiator. With equal relish, no doubt, did Mr. Bright hearken on Tuesday night to the pointed epigrams which Sir William Harcourt volleyed forth at the notable banquet held in the Townhall of Birmingham to inaugurate the new Reform Club for that city. The Chamberlains were well represented at this considerable gathering, the Mayor, Mr. Richard of that ilk, besides Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, M.P., being present, in addition to quite a cluster of Liberal members, comprising Mr. Coates, Mr. A. Bass, and Mr. H. Bass. The lusty representative of Oxford had been the guest of Mr. J. Chamberlain, but still avowed himself a "moderate Liberal." Pleasant personalities did Sir William Harcourt generally indulge in.

He could not forgive Sir Stafford Northcote for christening him a "Political Zadkiel," and laboured hard to prove that this was a title which anyone of her Majesty's Ministers might wear more fitly than he. Absolutely bristling with epithets, the speech furnished a bantering comment on each transaction of the Ministry; justified hostile criticism of the Government by citations from the speeches of the late Lord Derby and the present Prime Minister during Lord Palmerston's régime; retorted heavily upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer by describing him as a "false prophet" financially, and "a diviner *malgré lui*," educated from an outline of a "Jingo's leading article," hit off Lord George Hamilton as the "gallant stripling" who had been down to Midlothian "to rescue his kindred and slay Goliath with his little sling;" termed Lord Salisbury a "maladroit Talleyrand and Bismarck *manqué*," and "his faithful henchman, Mr. Bourke," as "the Under-Secretary, not the orator;" and concluded with this good round assertion, "For my part, I claim the right to try a little hydrofluoric acid on the fictitious paste and the gew-gaw decorations of her Majesty's Government and their supporters. If the Jingo jewels hiss and bubble and effloresce and go to pieces in the crucible, why we know the stuff they are made of."

Mr. Bright was less jocular. In seeking to show the need of Liberal Clubs, he entered into a long review of the history of Conservative antagonism to most popular measures for the past fifty years, referring to the opposition to the abolition of the Test and Corporation Acts, to Catholic emancipation, to Parliamentary Reform, to the repeal of the Corn Laws (for his share in which the Earl of Beaconsfield came in for a passing rebuke), to the Penny Postage, to the doing away with Slavery, to the repeal of the Paper Duty, to the use of the Ballot, and to the Irish Church and Land Acts. All these reforms, Mr. Bright concisely pointed out, were steadily resisted by the Tory Party; and the right hon. member argued that if these evils had not been removed to this day, "You would then have had chaos and anarchy, and that kind of calm which succeeds anarchy and which is always connected with it. The aristocracy had practically died in France, and the aristocracy of this country would have been dead here; and more than that, I believe the English crown, ancient and venerated as it is, if it had been obliged to submit to the strain of fifty more years of Tory Government, would have been worth no more than, nor so much as, Mr. Turnerelli's wreath." There was a pungent comparison of Lord Beaconsfield to a spider, which elicited much laughter; and the whole speech, if somewhat too reminiscent of the past, yet gave chapter and verse to demonstrate the reason for the institution of such clubs as the one which was that evening inaugurated. Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, who followed Mr. Bright, delivered himself of a series of incisive sentences in further condemnation of the Government; but, by comparison, his speech seemed sadly to lack breadth of style and robustness and roundness of delivery. So far from ending with Tuesday's banquet, Birmingham's Liberal demonstration was carried on throughout the week, and is to conclude with a public meeting in the Townhall on Saturday, when Mr. Bright and Mr. Chamberlain (Mr. Muntz is unwell, we regret to hear) will address their constituents.

Lesser luminaries have also sparkled; but it will be sufficient to say that the cudgels on behalf of the Ministry were stoutly wielded by Mr. C. F. Hammond at Newcastle-on-Tyne on Monday, by Earl Percy and Sir Matthew Ridley at Wooler yesterday week; and that the Government were as vigorously assailed by Mr. Baxter at Forfar on the 15th inst., by Mr. Stansfeld at Halifax the same day, and by the Marquis of Ripon and Mr. Grant Duff in supporting the two Liberal candidates, Mr. W. H. Leatham and Mr. W. H. Fitzwilliam, at Wakefield on Tuesday.

The distress in Ireland was naturally the uppermost question at the deliberation of the Irish members in Dublin, over which the Lord Mayor, Mr. E. D. Gray, M.P., presided on Tuesday, with habitual earnestness. Mr. Shaw, Mr. Mitchell Henry, Major Nolan, Major O'Gorman, and The O'Donoghue were among those who impressed upon the Ministry the necessity of "instituting works of a remunerative character" to mitigate the misery.

Mr. John Torr's recent death will render an election contest inevitable in Liverpool very shortly, and his demise is a considerable loss to the Conservative Party in that important borough. Lord Ramsay will be the Liberal candidate, and the struggle will be regarded with critical interest at this juncture.

THE CHURCH.

PREFERMENTS AND APPOINTMENTS.

Bennett, Theophilus, to be Vicar of Branksea.
 Blogg, Henry Birdwood; Vicar of Frodsham, Cheshire.
 Campion, William Magan; Honorary Canon of Ely Cathedral.
 Carr, J. W. H.; Vicar of All Saints', Middlesbrough.
 Crake, Augustine David; Rector of St. Peter's, Haven-street, L.W.
 Cresswell, Sackville George; Vicar of Holcombe Burnell.
 Daubney, William Heaford; Vicar of Harlington.
 Davies, William Pascal; Vicar of Pyle with Kenfig, Glamorganshire.
 De Romestin, A. H. B.; Rural Dean of Woodstock.
 Goodford, Mountague Charles; Rector of Wootton Courtney.
 Gotto, Edward Robert; Rector of Bridford.
 Hale, Thomas; Vicar of Ilminster, Newton-Abbot, Devon.
 Harrison, William Thomas; Honorary Canon of Ely Cathedral.
 Holbrooke, F. G.; Vicar of All Saints', Blackheath.
 Lindon, Thomas Angell; Vicar of Highcliffe.
 Maltby, J. C.; Curate of Grimby, Rector of Apsley Guise, Bedfordshire.
 Poplewell, William; Incumbent of All Saints', Bolton.
 Rawes, Francis Russell; Vicar of Welcombe.
 Rogers, Thomas; Perpetual Curate of Llwynypia.
 Russell, John; Rector of Black Torrington.
 Smith, Daniel; Rector of Sandiacre.
 Stevens, C. A.; Vicar of Portslade, Sussex.
 Tiley, Charles Philip; Vicar of Ilse.
 Tyrwhitt, Henry Mervyn; Vicar of St. Michael and All Angels', Bromley.
 Williams, William; Vicar of Carlton-juxta-Snaith.
 Wilson, Alfred; Minister District of St. Michael and All Angels', Bedford Park.—*Guardian*.

Last Saturday the new chapel at Hereford Workhouse was opened by the Bishop. The Dean preached in the evening.

It is officially announced that the chapel designated as St. Andrew's, Tavistock-place, has ceased to be connected with the Church of England.

The Bishop of Rochester consecrated on Saturday last the new Church of St. George's, Perry-hill, Lewisham. The cost of the church, £9000, has been entirely defrayed by Mr. George Parker, of Lewisham.

It was stated at the Chester Consistory Court last week that in 1879 forty-one faculties were granted for the restoration and improvement of churches, and the amount expended thereon was £50,000.

A window by Messrs. Clayton and Bell has recently been inserted in the chancel of St. Mary's, Burrough-on-the-Hill, Leicestershire. It is a memorial of the late Rev. Gustavus Burnaby, of Somerby Hall, formerly for many years Rector of St. Peter's Bedford, and is the gift of his widow. The church itself has also lately been restored at a cost of £900, through the exertions of the Rector and patron, the Rev. Evelyn Burnaby. The work of restoration has comprised the rebuilding of the tower, aisles, and vestry. A handsome memorial clock, by Messrs. Benson, has also been given by the Rector.

The work has been carried out under the direction of Mr. C. Kirk, of Sleaford.—It is proposed to erect a painted window, by Clayton and Bell, in the Lady Chapel of Chichester Cathedral, in memory of the late Canon Ashwell, the subject being "Christ in the Midst of the Doctors."

On the 4th inst., St. John's, Pembroke Dock, was reopened, after complete internal renovation, by the Bishop of St. David's. The cost of the restoration, including new seats, reglazing, tiled pavements, carved choir stalls, stone pulpit, and rood screen, has been about £1300.

St. Catherine's, Tranmere, which was built for £2000 in 1830, was rebuilt in 1876, and has now been completed by the addition of a tower and spire, the whole work having cost thrice the original cost. It contains 800 sittings, of which 200 are free. Last week a tea party and a soirée were held in honour of the occasion.

A conference in connection with the Ripon diocesan branch of the Church of England Temperance Society was held at Leeds on Monday afternoon. The Bishop of Ripon, who presided, delivered an address, in which he stated that intemperance was the besetting sin of the nation, and the parent of crime, insanity, and pauperism. He could not understand that a national Church could be fulfilling its mission if it did not do its utmost to stamp out intemperance. Papers on various aspects of the temperance question was then read. In the evening a public meeting was held, and presided over by the Bishop.

Lord Penzance had before him in the Court of Arches last Saturday letters of request from the Bishop of London for the institution of a new suit against the Rev. A. H. Mackonochie, Vicar of St. Alban's, Holborn, for continuing ritualistic practices in the celebration of the Communion Service, notwithstanding the sentence of three years' suspension which had been pronounced against him. It was stated that the object of the suit was to deprive Mr. Mackonochie if he persisted in his contumacy. Lord Penzance, being satisfied that an insincere and frivolous use of the process of the Court was not about to be made, issued the citation. Shortly before the closing of the office on Tuesday the citation decreed by Lord Penzance in the new suit "Martin v. Mackonochie" was issued from the Arches Registry, having been prepared by the Proctors for the Primate. It was sealed by the sealer of the Court (Mr. George W. Brooks, of Doctors'-commons), and placed in the hand of Mr. Kirkman, the officer of the Court, for personal service.

The Incorporated Society for Promoting the Enlargement, Building, and Repairing of Churches and Chapels held its usual monthly meeting on Thursday, the 15th inst., at the society's house, 7, Whitehall—the Ven. Archdeacon Harrison in the chair. Grants of money were made in aid of the following objects—viz., Building new churches at Forest-gate, St. James's, in the parish of West Ham, Essex (£180); Newton, St. Hilda, in the parish of Kirkdale, near York (£50); Lower Tranmere, St. Luke, near Birkenhead (£350), from the "R.M." Fund; and Wealdstone, Holy Trinity, in the parish of Harrow Weald, near Stanmore, Middlesex (£100); Evesham Union Workhouse Chapel, Worcester (£30); rebuilding the church at Ardleigh St. Mary, near Colchester (£100); enlarging or otherwise improving the accommodation in the churches at Aymestry St. John, near Kingsland, Hereford (£50), and Bagnall St. Chad, near Stoke-on-Trent (£25). Grants were also made from the Special Mission Buildings Fund towards providing mission churches at East-hill, in the parish of Dartford, Kent (£35); Stathe, in the parish of Stoke St. Gregory, near Taunton (£15); Talybont, in the parish of Llanfihangel-Geneu'r-Glyn, near Borth, Cardigan (£25); and Woolwich, St. Michael, Kent (£30).

The Bishop of Manchester was married to Agnes Ellen Frances, eldest daughter and heiress of the late John Shute Duncan, LL.D., on the 15th inst., at St. Peter's, Onslow-gardens, by the Dean of Westminster. On the wedding morning Mr. James Smith, secretary of the Manchester and Salford District Provident Society, received a cheque for £250 from the Bishop. The Bishop has also sent a cheque for £50 to the secretary of the Manchester Young Men's Christian Association, to be distributed in helpful gifts to persons who have seen better days, but who are now suffering acutely from the present depression of trade. This gift has been supplemented by a donation of £5 sent by a Wesleyan Methodist, to show his affectionate regard for the Bishop. On the receipt of the news of the marriage in Manchester, the bells of the Townhall and the cathedral rang a merry peal, and the organist at the cathedral played a wedding march. The Mayor telegraphed his congratulations to the Bishop. The *Manchester Guardian* understands that the amount subscribed by the clergy of this diocese for the purchase of a service of plate to be presented to the Bishop on the occasion of his recent marriage, amounts to something over 300 guineas. The maximum subscription has been fixed at one guinea. Not only this presentation, but all other presentations of a similar character made to his Lordship and Mrs. Fraser, will be of a strictly private character.

THE UNIVERSITIES AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OXFORD.

Mr. P. J. Heawood, from Ipswich Grammar School, has been elected to the vacant Mathematical Scholarship at Exeter College.

The following have been elected to Open Scholarships at Corpus:—Classical—W. Bartlett, Balliol (late from Rugby School); O. Elton and J. C. Godley, Marlborough College; F. H. Matthews, Dulwich College. Mathematical—H. Stern, St. Paul's School.

At University, E. M. M. Ballantyne, Bradford College, has been elected to a Mathematical Scholarship; and W. B. Worsfold and J. P. O'Donohoe, Wakefield Grammar School, to Freestone Exhibitions.

At Merton, T. J. Richards, Exhibitioner of Balliol, has been elected to a Mathematical Postmastership.

Mr. W. M. Ramsay, late scholar of St. John's, has been selected for nomination to the Travelling Studentship in Archaeology for three years, established by a Fellow of All Souls'. Mr. Ramsay obtained a First Class at Classical Moderations in Trinity Term, 1874, and a First Class in the Final Classical School in Trinity Term, 1876.

CAMBRIDGE.

The result of the first portion of the examination for the Mathematical Tripos was read on Saturday. All those who have passed unconditionally are thereby entitled to honours; and if they go through the second portion of the examination must be classified either as Wranglers or Senior or Junior Optimes. The entry keeps up high, no fewer than 106 going in this year. London contributes one seventh of the whole, whilst Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Lancashire, Yorkshire, and the West and Midland counties of England, are all well represented, as also are some of our distant colonies and dependencies.

The Christian Knowledge Society, at its last monthly

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THE AFGHAN WAR: A BLOCK IN THE JUGDULLUK PASS.

SKETCHES IN AFGHANISTAN.

Our Illustrations of the military movements that have been proceeding to strengthen the British force in the occupation of Cabul were mostly taken from scenes in the Jugdulluk Pass, which has latterly been superseded by the more convenient route of Latabund. The force, however, commanded by Brigadier-General Charles Gough, which set out from Gundamuk on the 14th ult., to reinforce General Sir Frederick Roberts at Cabul, had to take the Jugdulluk road, as the other was, for the time, impeded by hostile tribes. On arriving at Lukhai, the post beyond the Surkhab, General Gough, with two hundred of the 9th, two hundred of the 4th Goorkhas, and two hundred of the 10th Bengal Lancers, marched direct to

Jugdulluk, the total distance being twenty-four miles. That party reached the camp at Jugdulluk after nightfall. The remainder of the force, left under Colonel Daunt, at Lukhai, with a large convoy, was ordered to come on the following day. The same afternoon Colonel Daunt heard that 5000 men would attack Jugdulluk, and 3000 his own camp, during the night. Every precaution was taken. The heights commanding the position were occupied with strong pickets, and the men slept accoutred, but nothing happened. Next morning Colonel Daunt left Lukhai. Just before reaching Jugdulluk, he learnt that a small party of the 10th Lancers had been fired upon a mile in front, one man being killed and another wounded. While waiting on the brow of a hill for the baggage to close up, Colonel Daunt received a message from

the officer commanding the rearguard that he was engaged with the enemy, their force being unknown. Leaving a small guard with the baggage, the remainder faced about and rattled down the hill again at a swift rate; but by the time they reached the rearguard the enemy had retired. This force reached Jugdulluk Fort, three miles beyond the Kotal, where there is also a fort, but a smaller one, at sunset. As soon as darkness fell, they saw the hills north-west of the camp all lit with watch-fires and heard shots fired in quick succession, but there was no attack. On the morning of the 16th they could see the crest of the hills occupied by parties of the enemy with standards. Some ventured down the slopes and opened fire on the working parties. A company of the 9th, under Lieutenant Mayne, was sent to dislodge them and succeeded

in that task. Several of the enemy were seen to fall. On the 17th a party consisting of a hundred of the 9th, a hundred of the 4th Goorkhas, and a troop of cavalry under Major Macnaughten, sent towards Peizeran Kotal to ascertain the state of the road, was attacked two miles below Jugdulluk Kotal by a thousand of the enemy. Our infantry behaved coolly, their fire being accurate and steady. The enemy dared not make a rush, and that night there were no watch-fires or shots. This is an example of the state of insecurity and perpetual threatening of attack that prevailed in the Jugdulluk Pass; and our sketches of that locality, showing the difficulties interposed by the ruggedness and narrowness of the path in the transport of military stores and hospital conveniences, help to understand the reasons for giving a preference to the Latabund route. Its adoption will, however, involve the building of two bridges, one spanning the Cabul river at the Sirobi ford, and another carrying the road again to the southern bank at Jellalabad. The country north of the Cabul, which has to be passed through before the Laghman boundary is crossed, boasts of a population more fanatical perhaps than any in Afghanistan. They are all nearly Sufis, or Kaffirs converted to Mohammedanism. These are, as generally is the case with converts, more bigoted than the original sect, and most punctilious in observing the strictest precepts of their religion. The country is made up of three large valleys watered by the Pinjshir, Tagao, and Uzbun rivers, running from the highlands between Kohistan and Kafiristan, and emptying themselves in the Cabul river. Barren ranges of hills shut out these valleys from each other, and it is only near the Cabul valley that there is a break in these gigantic spurs of the Hindoo Koosh. The Sufis have always been left to their own devices, their determination causing Ghilzais, Lughmanis, and other neighbouring tribes to be wary of interference with them. Their strong towers and fortified villages, often perched on almost inaccessible strongholds, are secure against attack, except, of course, when artillery is brought to bear against them.

A sketch by Mr. W. Simpson, our Special Artist, who was at Gundamak with Major Cavagnari and the head-quarters staff of General Sir Samuel Browne early in last year, represents the old bridge over the Surkhob, or Red River, not far in advance of that place on the road to Jugdulluk. He furnishes also the illustration of a scene of camp life at Gundamak, which displays a variation of the sort of amusement or exercise called "the Tug of War," and which is the subject of our two-page engraving. Here, as we see, one of the baggage elephants has been tackled by the united strength of a party of soldiers, instead of two opposing bands of men pulling at the rope against each other. A view of the architectural monument called the Minar Chakri, near Cabul, is taken from Masson's drawing, given in the "Ariana Antiqua." About five or six miles south or south-east of the City of Cabul there is a group of towers; and near these are two columns known as the "Minar Chakri," and the "Surkh Minar." But Masson considers that these Minars are of the same age as the Towers, and that they belong to the Buddhist period. Hence they ought perhaps to be called *stuphas*; for "Minar" is the word given to the columns or towers of a Mohammedan mosque, from which the call to prayer is made. The remaining sketch is that of an Afghan peasant employed in his work of cultivating the soil, which will bear comparison with the illustration of harrowing a stony field in the mountain country of Mayo, presented in our last week's Number.

THRIFT.

The annual meeting of the Liverpool Penny Savings Bank Association was held yesterday week. The Mayor presided, and it was stated that there were 104 banks in the union. Thirty-one of them worked in public elementary schools. There were 28,534 depositors, and the transactions of the year numbered 407,216. There was a social gathering in the evening, when Mr. A. B. Forwood (presiding for the Mayor) alluded to the rapid growth of the association, which started seven banks in 1870, and had, with the fostering help of the Liverpool Savings Bank, now become of national importance. The Earl of Derby said savings banks were only possible in countries which were not despotically governed, and where there was a working class gathered in considerable communities. They had greatly increased in this country during the last fifteen years; and one great advantage which they afforded to the State was that they provided the only convenient method of reducing the amount of our national indebtedness by means of terminable annuities. He saw no reason why the amount which each depositor might invest should not be extended to £500. The influence of savings banks led to capitalists being content with lower interest, and made industrial employment, which depended on cheap capital, more abundant.

Sir Edward Watkin, M.P., presided last Saturday at the annual tea party of the Manchester and Salford Equitable Co-operative Society, Limited, which was founded twenty years ago, and has now a share capital of £75,000. He said it gave him much pleasure to see many old acquaintances enrolled in this society. If there ever was a society founded on prudential reasons it must be theirs. They did not pretend to sell retail quantities at wholesale prices, but they bought in the market wholesale quantities for cash, they sold at the most moderate retail prices for cash, and then they distributed their profits among the men and women connected with their confederation. It appeared from their annual report that they were making a profit of 16½ per cent at a cost of only 6½ per cent. A fitting motto for such co-operative societies would be "Honesty, harmony, and hard work." After speaking of the development of personal independence, which was the result of their exemption from the trammels of the credit system, he said if their excellent friend the Bishop of Manchester had been present—of whose marriage they were all so very glad to hear—he would tell them that their annual report was as good as any sermon, because it spoke of self-denial, of temperance, of prudence, and of their observance of the Christian duty of subscribing to charities and in aid of education. Sir Edward Watkin gave some valuable suggestions with regard to savings banks and other matters, and ended his speech amid much cheering. The meeting was afterwards addressed by Mr. H. C. Pingstone, the president, who said they would give their best consideration to Sir Edward Watkin's proposals both as to savings banks and as to the relief of Irish distress. He regretted that there was so little of co-operative effort to be seen in Ireland. That country would soon have reaped the benefit of such union for self-help carried out in the spirit of harmony of which Sir Edward had spoken. Among other gentlemen who took part in the proceedings were Mr. Councillor Southern, Mr. Robert Whitworth, Mr. W. Foster, honorary secretary, and Mr. Wiley, superintendent of the Manchester Corporation Health Department.

At the general meeting of the patrons, trustees, and managers of the Finsbury and City of London Savings Bank, held at the office, in Cheapside, yesterday week, the audited accounts for the year ended Nov. 20 last were presented. By these it was shown that the bank had largely increased in all its branches. The receipts have exceeded the repayments by

£34,302, raising the capital of the bank to £828,382. These facts were deemed most satisfactory by the managers present, as showing not only the undiminished confidence reposed in the bank by the industrious classes, but also that their power to save had not been sensibly impaired by the depression of trade which had prevailed during the year.

The Earl of Wharfedale presided at the annual meeting of the Sheffield Savings Bank on Monday. The report showed that £23,000 had been withdrawn from the bank in excess of deposits, and that the number of accounts remaining open were fewer by a hundred.

GOLD AND SILVER WIRE DRAWERS' COMPANY.

At the last meeting of this worshipful Company, on Friday, the 9th inst., a very handsome Badge was presented to the Master by the Court of Assistants. We are furnished by Messrs. Hancocks and Co., of Bruton-street, with an illustration of the design. It represents the arms of the ancient Company, and is manufactured in fine gold enamelled



BADGE PRESENTED TO THE MASTER OF THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF GOLD AND SILVER WIRE-DRAWERS.

in proper colours. It is suspended by a cord of gold and silver wire. The Gold and Silver Wire Drawers' Company dates back to 1693. The Livery was granted by the Court of Aldermen, July 18, 1780. At the centenary, in July next, it has been decided to hold an exhibition of works of art in gold and silver. The Lord Mayor has kindly offered the use of the Mansion House for that purpose.

ROYAL INSTITUTION LECTURES.

STRUCTURE OF MUSCLE.

Professor E. A. Schafer gave the first of a course of ten lectures on the Physiology of Muscle on Tuesday week, the 13th inst. In his introductory remarks he described muscle in the higher animals as a mass of red flesh sheathed in connective tissue, and attached by tendons or leaders to the bones, possessing the peculiar property of contractility, shortening, and becoming thick in proportion to its decrease in length by the influence of the will and other stimuli, thus being the great motor agent of the body. The connective tissue passes from the dermis or under-skin between all the other organs, and, besides ensheathing the muscles, coats the bones and cartilages, and eventually reaches the mucous membranes. After commenting on the fibrous structure of muscle as seen by the naked eye, the Professor adverted to the results of microscopical study, exhibited in large diagrams, which showed that the visible fibres are composed of very delicate threads as fine as silk, alternately light and dark in colour, characters which exist even in the contractile tissues of the jelly-fish: laterally these fibres appear to be composed of alternate light and dark minute discs. The nuclei observed in the fibres tend to prove that muscles are really modified cells of protoplasm. The results of the investigations of the structure of muscle by microscopes of very high power were described; and reasons were given for considering some of the phenomena as due to optical effects. Remarks were also made on the very great strength of the muscles in some insects. The lecture was concluded with the exhibition of highly magnified muscular fibres by electric light.

RENAISSANCE ARCHITECTURE.

Mr. H. Heathcote Statham gave the first of a course of two lectures on Modern Architecture since the Renaissance on Thursday week, the 15th inst. In his introductory remarks, he commented upon the intense effect which the revival of the study of classical literature and art in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries had upon architecture. It produced a radical change in the nature and objects of design; which ceased to be the unconscious working out of problems in plan and execution, with suitable ornament, as it was in the Gothic, but became the conscious effort to reproduce the beauties of classic architecture by using the old materials in new combinations. Architecture thus, instead of a national, became an individual art, and a building was recognised as representing the special taste and genius of one particular artist. In this revolution the influence of the valuable though pedantic precepts of the Roman architectural writer Vitruvius was very great. He lived about the time of Augustus, and, opposing the style of the time, maintained the Greek orders to be true standards by which buildings should be judged. Mr. Statham then gave some details respecting several of the more important Italian architects, specimens of their works being exhibited by magnified photographs projected upon a screen. He began with the Pitti Palace, attributed to Michelozzo by some; by others to Brunelleschi, also a goldsmith and sculptor, who erected the dome of the Florence Cathedral, and who is described as "the restorer of good architecture." Adverting next to the history of St. Peter's at Rome, Mr. Statham described Bramante as a middling painter and poet, but a bad architect, who in 1513 got the job to rebuild the church, and raised the structure nearly to the cornice; at his death and that of his patron,

Pope Julius II., Raffaele became nominal architect; and his successor, Baldassare Peruzzi, merely reduced the plan to a Greek cross. He was followed by Antonio Sangallo, who made a model and strengthened the piers. The plan of his successor, Michel Angelo (a greater sculptor than architect), was changed by Carlo Maderno, described as a successful charlatan, who probably added the attics. In consequence of fears for its safety, the dome, after being threatened with demolition, was strengthened by iron bands, as advised by the Marquis Giovanni Poleni. An illustrated account was then given of the plans and structure of St. Paul's, London, erected by Wren, whose first design was for a Protestant church; his second, in its interior, being really modified Gothic. Pictures were then exhibited of some of the works of the following Italian architects, with comments on their details:—Sansovino; Palladio, an influential disciple of Vitruvius; Bernini, Vignola, Scamozzi; Domenico Fontana, who set up the obelisk and erected the colonnade of the Vatican; Certosa; and San Martino.

INVESTIGATIONS AT HIGH TEMPERATURES.

Professor Dewar, F.R.S., at the first evening meeting of the season on Friday week, the 16th inst., exhibited some of the very remarkable results of experiments made by exposing various bodies to the intense heat of the electric arc, the space between the glowing poles of a battery; chiefly the fruit of the researches of Professor Liveing and himself. To obtain these results, very great labour and ingenuity was expended in the construction and arrangement of apparatus, especially by the laboratory assistant, Mr. Cottrell. The Professor began by referring to the formation of prussic acid between the poles in perfectly dry air, even when purified carbon or graphite points were employed. Nitrous acid also is produced at the rate of eight grains in an hour. The probable cause of this, a very recondite subject, was commented on. The radiation of heat from the electric lamp employed was said to be equal to that of a steam-engine of three-horse power. Its effect upon the prismatic spectra of the substances submitted to it was next illustrated. In some cases bands were widened, in others narrowed; new bands sometimes appeared and others were eliminated. Some bands widened when the Professor blew into the electric arc. The width of the bands varies at different degrees of temperature and pressure. As the boiling-point of water varies with the amount of atmospheric pressure, so, it was stated, the chemical stability of a compound depends upon varying conditions of pressure and heat. Professor Dewar remarked that the rumoured separation of oxygen gas from chlorine by heat had not been verified, and chlorine still retained its position as an element, as demonstrated by Davy. Some of the results obtained appear very anomalous, and would seem to upset the whole system of modern chemistry, which rests upon the principle that equal volumes of an element contain an equal number of molecules. Reference was made to the important researches of Meyer, an American chemist, upon this profound subject. In order to attempt the decomposition of the elements, Pictet, of Geneva, proposes the construction of a very large concave mirror to concentrate the solar rays, whereby a heat may be obtained very far exceeding that of the electric arc, which is about equal to the heat from a concave mirror a yard in diameter. Among other experiments, the allotropes of sulphur were produced, and that element was made to boil in the electric arc. Finally, a piece of intensely hot carbon, dropped into water, decomposed it into its elementary gases and then rose to the surface.

STRUCTURE AND ORIGIN OF COAL.

Professor T. Rupert Jones, F.R.S., gave the first of a course of three lectures on Coal on Saturday last, the 17th inst. He began with an enumeration of the different kinds of carbonaceous substances (including fossil fuels), which comprise wood, peat, lignite, coal, anthracite, graphite, and diamond. Referring to ordinary household coal, he pointed out its consisting (1) of layers of bright black coal; (2), thinner layers of dull black charcoal on the bedding planes, with (3) occasional films of bright yellow pyrites; and (4) of white sulphate of lime on the faces of the fractures traversing the layers, and dividing the coal into blocks. Sometimes (5) flat pieces of black stony matter lie in the coal, becoming apparent after burning; and (6) irregular seams of iron pyrites are hidden within some coals. The action of heat in ordinary fires in loosening the layers by producing bitumen, in opening the fissures, in calcining the "batts" or slates, and in cracking the pyrites, was considered, as well as the formation of coke, cinder, ash, and clinker. Adverting to the intimate structure of these constituents of coal, the Professor described the results of careful manipulation and microscopical examination, which show that stems, branches, twigs, leaves, and fruit (cone-like and crowded with spores) of certain trees are present in different proportions in different seams and laminae of coal, whilst trunks of other (coniferous) trees, and nutlike fruits, with ferns, &c., occur in the associated sands and shales. A detailed description was also given of plants found in coal and shales, especially lepidodendron, sigillaria, and calamites, and their spore-bearing cones. These plants, the lecturer said, evidently grew in a uniformly warm and moist climate in low-lying jungles, over very extensive regions, subject to inundations by rivers from higher grounds, and by shallow, muddy seas, both when the water was banked up by gales blowing on shore, and when the land itself subsided. On a given mud-bed or soft clayey soil, left after an inundation, spores from neighbouring forests germinated and quickly grew, high and thick-set, with strong and weak individuals, according to the struggle for existence. The twigs, leaves, and spores accumulated continuously on the sappy ground, either mixed or severally, according to periods of growth; and the branches and trees frequently fell, by natural overweight, by ordinary winds, or by heavy gales, hurricanes, and storms. The vegetable debris among the growing trunks did not all become a mere damp, rotten, peaty bed of leaf-mould, for its rapid accumulation tended to shut in the gases (carburetted hydrogen, &c.), which would otherwise have escaped; and when a whole prostrate forest-growth covered its surface the fallen trunks not only pressed it down, but were themselves inclosed in their own matted twigs and leaves. The more exposed portions rotted into touchwood and became carbonised as mere charcoal, and the covered mass was hydrocarbonised as coal, varying in different layers and in different localities. The whole was soon hermetically shut down by the flood mud from sea and river; and the repetition of the various conditions of growth, accumulation, and inclosure produced the innumerable layers of different coals, clays, shales, sandstones, and occasional limestones constituting the coal-measures.

Professor Dewar will begin a course of eight lectures on Recent Chemical Progress on Thursday next, the 29th inst. Professor John Marshall, F.R.S., will give a discourse on the Proportions of the Human Figure next Friday evening, the 30th inst.

The Postmaster-General has determined to erect a new post office at Exeter.

OLD MASTERS AT THE ROYAL ACADEMY.

SECOND NOTICE.

Having reviewed the works of Holbein and his contemporaries in Room IV., where centres the highest interest, artistic and historic, of this exhibition, we now proceed to notice the works by foreign masters generally. Room V. contains several pictures of the early Italian school, commencing with one or two presenting Greek characteristics and others by the Giotteschi; but we need hardly dwell on these nor on the pseudo ancient Roman "Battle Scene" (219), by Vittore Pisano, and the "Fable of Cupid" (227), attributed to the secular-minded Fra Filippo Lippi. Four illustrations of Boccaccio's story of "Nostagio degli Onesti" in the "Decameron" ascribed to Botticelli, were in the Barker collection, and, having been cleaned, are now lent by Mr. Leyland. In some points of design these panels resemble Botticelli, but the colouring is stronger than his, and we find little of the imaginative feeling that often goes far to redeem the crude immaturity of his style and draughtsmanship. There is little doubt, therefore, that these illustrations were carried out by scholars, more especially as they are literally furniture-pictures—that is, executed for the decoration of the marriage *cassone*—as were others near them. A similar probability attaches to the classical compositions attributed, with a query, to Luca Signorelli (218 and 226). Here is apparent something of the master's daring invention and manner, but not that skill in drawing and foreshortening which doubtless influenced his great successor, Michael Angelo. The "Virgin and Child" (220) ascribed to Mantegna is again only, we think, a good school picture. We come, however, to a perfectly genuine work in "Virgin and Child with Attendant Angels" (223), by Piero della Francesca, from Christ Church, Oxford. Unfortunately, the picture had been much damaged, but has been restored with scrupulous care, under the superintendence, we believe, of Mr. Richmond, R.A. The flesh tints had been abraded, and no longer cover with due tone the white gesso ground: other hues had flaked off, flown, or changed; enough, however, remains to indicate the beauty and rich contrasts of the original colouring, and more than enough to show the elegance of the design and the natural dignity combined with spiritual elevation of the figures. Here, indeed, is a picture in which imaginative sympathy, religious intensity, and artistic instinct make us quite forget the technical shortcomings of a tentative stage of art-growth. A very excellent small head of a man (214) may well be by the rare master Antonello da Messina, though it has suffered much; it closely resembles in technique the small head in the Louvre, and is quite as remarkable for intense vitality and character. Another admirable portrait is that of "A Youth" (223) in profile, which the owner, Mr. F. Austin, assigns, but with a query, to Raphael. To us the melting gradations and the olive and russet-brown tones are not those of Raphael, but belong to the Milanese School. With, however, such delicate characterisation and execution, what matters to a true art-lover uncertainty as to authorship? Another good picture of this school, rashly given in the catalogue to the *caposcuola* Leonardo da Vinci, is No. 225, a "Virgin and Child." Also deserving the visitor's attention are "Christ in the Act of Benediction" (229), a beautiful picture of the Venetian school, and a "Virgin and Child" (232) of the "Umbrian," or rather the Florentine, school. What little interest attaches to some early Castilian and Aragonese pictures is archaeological rather than artistic. The only observation worth while to make is that they are attempts of the rudest kind to imitate early Flemish characteristics.

The Italian schools of the best period are represented more sparingly than usual in the Great Room. In respect to one picture in this room—the full-length portrait catalogued as that of "Michael Angelo" (102) by Sebastian del Piombo, lent by Lieutenant-Colonel Vivian—an interesting discussion has been raised in the *Times*. Mr. J. C. Robinson gives his reasons for asserting that it is not a portrait by Sebastiano, nor of Michael Angelo, but of his malicious enemy and rival Baccio Bandinelli, probably painted by himself; and, although this opinion has been controverted, we entirely agree with it. We do not, however, go quite so far as Mr. Robinson when he says that the face in this picture is "obviously" a different one from that of Michael Angelo, for it is a very curious coincidence that at the first glance the face *may* suggest a faint resemblance to Michael Angelo, albeit an ignoble presentment; and to this partial resemblance is to be referred its present cognomen. However, on a second glance, it will be seen, as Mr. Robinson states, that the nose of the original of this portrait had not been broken, as had Michael Angelo's by the fist of his early antagonist, Torrigiano; moreover, the head is too narrow and the parted beard too long, while the face does not differ essentially from known portraits of Bandinelli, though it hardly possesses the individuality which carries with it the conviction that a portrait is a good likeness. What is called in the catalogue a "coral cross," suspended from the neck, also helps the identification, this being, as Mr. Robinson points out, the badge enamelled with a "blood-red sword," emblem of the Order of Santiago, which was conferred on Bandinelli by the Emperor Charles V., but which Michael Angelo never received. There is, however, an element in this picture which conclusively establishes Mr. Robinson's correction, though he has made no reference to it. The personage depicted is pointing to a drawing in red chalk representing Hercules subduing Cacus (not "Anteus" as in the catalogue), and a reference to Vasari's *Life of Bandinelli*, will show, without going further, that the introduction of this design enabled the artist to gratify his inordinate vanity by at once signalling one of his most considerable works in sculpture, by parading the skill with which he credited himself in draughtsmanship, and by recording a triumph he had won over his great rival. For the great block of marble, out of which he ultimately carved his group of Hercules and Cacus, had been given to Michael Angelo, but by backstairs influence with the Pope he gained possession of it, and from it executed the group that still flanks the entrance of the Palazzo Vecchio at Florence. The design in the picture is not the first one eulogised by Vasari, but accords with the existing group—the colossal work in which Bandinelli pretended that he should outvie the colossal David by Michael Angelo that had already been placed on the same Piazza—whence only it was removed a few years back. As for the authorship of the picture, it is *a priori* to the last degree improbable that the protégé of Michael Angelo should paint the portrait of his enemy; and from internal evidence it is evident that it cannot be by him. It has not the grandiose treatment which the frate derived from his illustrious friend; nor has it the peculiar colouring which gives a strange impressiveness to Sebastiano's apparently colossal half-length of Andrea Doria in the Doria Palace at Rome, and other of the very few works of this class known to be from his hand. Nor can it be that this is the portrait of Bandinelli painted by Andrea del Sarto, mentioned by Vasari (the possibility of which is suggested by Mr. Robinson), since the portrait refers to a later period of the artist's life. There is no more of Andrea

in the work than we might expect to find from one who learnt from him something of oil painting. For many reasons, then, we conclude that it is a portrait of Bandinelli by himself.

Of all the Venetian pictures by far the finest is the half-length of "Paolo Perito" (120), by Tintoretto, contributed by Sir Frederick Leighton. No master is more unequal in portraiture than Tintoretto; very many of his portraits, though always distinguished by robust largeness of style as well as by the scheme and method of colouring which was the common inheritance of his school, are only exceeded in hasty slightness by some of his large decorative works in the Scuola di San Rocco and elsewhere. But this portrait of the "Cato of Venice" is a quite exceptionally complete demonstration of that amazing power which continually ripened with his ripening years, even till his death, at seventy-six—only four years after the date of this picture. So thorough in modelling and so rich in characterisation that we carry away an impression of the individuality almost as vivid as from a Holbein, as powerful if not as subtle as Rembrandt in its chiaroscuro; as sure in touch, yet swifter and bolder in impasto than Velasquez, it is a masterpiece of a great master. "A Finished Study," said to be by Titian, for his destroyed "Peter Martyr" (122), is one of the best of many with similar pretensions. Paul Veronese's large Mary Magdalene (99) is a fine, broadly treated, solidly painted piece of Venetian decorative work, but does not, except in the descending angel to the left, present the master's usual play of colour. An unwonted Academicism in the picture seems to anticipate the leading characteristic of the Bolognese school, and the comparison suggested may be made by referring to the still larger picture by Guido, hanging conveniently near, in the scarcely deserved "place of honour," representing Venus and Cupid, called "Il Diamante" (101). Both pictures are equally devoid of thought and feeling; but the one is so vastly superior in style and execution to the other that we can but approve the fiat of fashion that has deposed Guido from the throne he occupied in the last century. The title of this picture is said to have originated from the circumstance that it was once purchased with a diamond of great value, but may be due to its supposed pre-eminent preciousness among the painter's works. By virtue of size and spaciousness of scene and masses of cumuli clouds, and by dint of rapid brush strokes arranged in a uniform direction, Salvator Rosa's "Landscape with Tobit and the Angel" (120) conveys a grand impression of unity; yet the mannerism of the whole is patent. Little interest attaches to the "Portrait of a Lady" (67), by Agnolo Bronzino, unless in regard to the gorgeously patterned and bejewelled dress. Mention must suffice for the fine Venetian head (129), the "Philosopher" (121), by Moroni, which has much sunk into its dark grey ground; the "Violante" (124), by Palma Vecchio; the Parmigiano (100); and the Queen's well known Canaletto, a "View in Venice" (93) and the "Arch of Septimius Severus" (111), painted when it was still buried half-way up the shafts of the columns in the debris of old Rome. The remaining Italian pictures are of inferior quality, even if rightly named; this being not always the case—take, for instance, "Wisdom and Strength" (106), manifestly not a work of Veronese's. The "Assumption of the Virgin" (101) is a version of the subject—this time with apostles round the tomb of the Virgin in the foreground—so often turned out of the studio of Murillo, and more frequently marked by the scholastic mannerism than the individual power of the master.

Turning to the Northern schools, there is nothing of early date very highly important and illustrative; though much of curious interest to the specialist will be found in the works assigned to Lucas Van Leyden—"Ecce Homo" (325); Memling—"The Virgin with a Donor and Saints" (238); Michael Wolgemuth (?), the master of Albert Dürer, Mabuse, and others. The head of a young dame in a white coif, described as "A Lady of the Court of Queen Mary," by Antonio More (62), bears a date "1585," which precludes it from being the one or by the other. There are three examples of the honest realistic painting of Mireveldt—two wrongly named "Gustavus Adolphus" (79) and "Tilley" (83), the third an authentic full-length of Elizabeth, Queen of Bohemia (127), daughter of James I. and mother of Prince Rupert and Prince Maurice, known also for her loveliness as "Queen of Hearts." Rubens's group of a rather ill-favoured "Lady and Gentleman" (54) has been reduced by cleaning to a raw condition, thereby permitting the spectator to take clearer note of that methodic arrangement of whites, yellows, greys, reds, and transparent shadows in the flesh, whereby Rubens reduced nature to a kind of generic pattern—a distinct mannerism, in short, capable of imitation by his staff of pupils and assistants. This picture, however, bears evidence to more than the few final touches which alone he could have given to a large proportion of the multitudinous works bearing the impress of his school; we see in it the self-assurance of the master-hand, which never fails to excite wonder though it may almost provoke resentment by its audacity. But Rubens could have had much less to do with No. 81—thought to represent his second wife, Helena Fourment—that is, before marriage, according to the inscription, "Virgo Brabantina." But, allowing for Rubens's tendency to reduce all—no, to augment in most cases—womanhood to his own ripe, fleshy ideal, this mature lady can scarcely be the niece of sixteen whom the painter of fifty married. The name of Rubens is certainly wrongly attached to No. 61, a portrait of a fair, stoutish young man in a black dress and broad-brimmed hat, lolling rather listlessly against a balustrade, though the right hand is half bent, as it were, for colloquial gesture. The brushwork here, and the superb painting of the hands belong decidedly to Frank Hals; the shadows are less transparent and monotonous than we see in Rubens; the colouring has a closer reference to the particular temperament of the sitter, and the hues are more subtly graduated. A three-quarter portrait of "A Lady" (64), the evidently uncompromising truth to nature of which bears honourable testimony to the artist's conscientiousness, we are inclined to assign to Albert Cuyp, not to Frank Hals—as it is designated. The painter's handling has, however, been obscured and sophisticated by the restorer's stippling. A bust of "A Man" (49) is modestly referred to the "School of Rembrandt," but is hardly unworthy of the master himself.

Great interest attaches to a fine picture lent by Mr. E. H. Scott, called "Rembrandt's Mill" (82), and we have no doubt painted by the master himself. The picture, though little known, is included in Smith's "Catalogue Raisonné" (No. 605). The subject has been questioned, but may, we think, be established by a reference to the biography of Vosmaer, who gives a bird's-eye view of Leyden from a manuscript of Petrus Bastius, dated 1600, in which appear the two mills at Leyden which were owned partially or wholly by Rembrandt's family during three generations, though only one of them (situated near the "White Gate") belonged to them in the painter's own day. In the picture we see these two mills, and also, behind trees, the tops of the houses of the Weddesteg, or Water Lane, in No. 3 of which Rembrandt was born—Houbraeken's statement that he was born in a mill having been long since proved to be an error. A difficulty is, however,

presented by the fact that the foremost mill, then belonging to Adrian, Rembrandt's brother, is *à fleur d'eau*, the farther mill being behind the rampart wall; whereas both mills are placed behind that wall in the view we have mentioned. This, however, identifies the date of the picture as painted by Rembrandt (then settled at Amsterdam) between 1640 and 1651, for it is stated that Adrian, after the death of his mother in 1640, and before he died, in 1651, removed the mill to the other, or south, side of the White Gate, where there was no fortification fringing the meadows. Apart from this personal interest, it is one of the master's most important landscape works. Albert Cuyp is variously and finely represented. In the Great Room, hanging as pendants, are two large landscapes with figures, one of which in particular, numbered 114, shows to advantage his aerial breadth of tone and summiness. There is also a capital portrait of a little boy standing beside his hobby horse (88), and some pictures of fowls. Vandyke's portrait of Thomas Howard, Earl of Arundel (57), in armour, holding a bâton in one hand and the other resting on his grandson, afterwards fifth Duke of Norfolk, is not only of great interest in itself, but also for comparison in memory with the masterly but rougher and damaged half-length of the same great collector by Vandyke's master, Rubens, which was at the Academy a few years back. This present is a noble treatment of a noble subject; it may not startle like Rubens's brilliant sketch, for that is little more, nor will it offend; the modelling is thorough without an air of labour; the refinement is perfect without affectation. The son of the Earl, and who succeeded to the title, appears as Lord Mowbray and Maltravers in another fine half-length by Vandyke (119). The bust of Charles I. (112) is a rather weaker presentment of the King's weak countenance than other versions from the same hand. These three pictures, like Holbein's Duchess of Milan and other leading attractions of this exhibition, are lent by the Duke of Norfolk from Arundel. Lastly, by Vandyke we have, figuring as Tasso's *Herminia* putting on the Armour of Clorinda, Mary Ruthven (130), a descendant of the Earl of Gowrie, whom the painter made his wife, though she and her family had been reduced to penury by the sequestrations consequent on the "Raid of Ruthven." Lely's whole-length portrait of the sixth Duke of Norfolk (128) and his Duchess (126) are average examples of the painter, and when we have said this we have said all that need be said.

Of the genre painting of the minor Dutch masters of the seventeenth century in works of cabinet dimensions, and in which consummate craftsmanship and exquisite finish lend interest to more or less trivial incidents of low or ordinary life, there are a few noteworthy examples in Room II.—witness Terburg's "Glass of Lemonade" (77) and "A Man Smoking" (51), Adrian Ostade's "Trie-Trac" (47), Metzua's "Tête-à-Tête" (74), and "Officer and Trumpeter" (84), and, last not least, Jan Steen's "Guitar Lesson" (71), a subject free for once from coarseness, though some joke uttered or implied in the situation seems to be intended, judging by the expression of the foreground couple and those behind, who appear to be preparing a surprise: the corners of all the mouths are much elevated, a peculiarity this, however, of very nearly all Jan Steen's figures. The technique, as we have intimated, is the main interest of these works, but we have not space to attempt a description of the nice distinctions in their technique; and besides these Masters may be studied at their best in our National Gallery. Similar remarks apply to the little portrait-like picture of a cow (52), a not very favourable example of Paul Potter; to the marvellous microscopic elaboration of Van der Heyde in a view of a canal bordered by houses (76); to the "Landscape" (85) and "Waterfall" (53), by Ruysdael and the landscapes by Hobbema, one of these (56) with a stag-hunt (the figures by Peter Wouwermans), being of unusually large dimensions. Apart from the dexterous, exact, and descriptive pencilling of the Dutch landscapists, we have to bear in mind that their colours have faded. One green pigment in particular which they used is known to be fugitive. Otherwise it would be difficult for a healthy taste for natural beauty and truth to reconcile itself to those monotonous browns and sooty shadows and washed-out grey greens. But even making all due allowance, there can be no doubt that landscape art has made progress in some directions, and in works of our own day are to be found recorded the varied splendour of the sky, the play of reflection on water, and the hues of rocks, earths, and foliage, with a fidelity to the wealth of colour and changeableness of nature which the old Dutch painters never attained and hardly even dreamt of. We conclude our survey of the foreign schools with three small pictures by French painters of the eighteenth century:—Watteau: a vivacious group (75) by this fascinating painter of *fêtes galantes*, of five figures, male and female, of the *Comédie Italienne*, in full masquerade fling, their amorous and laughing eyes roguishly turned towards the spectator; and—an utter contrast in his bourgeois homeliness—Chardin: two humble interiors (33 and 41), with women engaged in household duties, in which we see his solid manner of painting carried to excess of opacity. Chardin is, we submit, hardly entitled, unless it be as a still-life painter (the first phase of his art), to the place to which he has been raised from obscurity. He is only one, however, of many French painters of the last century whom contemporary French critics have extolled to an extent difficult of comprehension by the British mind; and which, we certainly consider, has far less justification than the taste now happily reviving for several of our own long neglected great of the last and two or three previous generations. The deceased British Masters will form the subject of a concluding article.

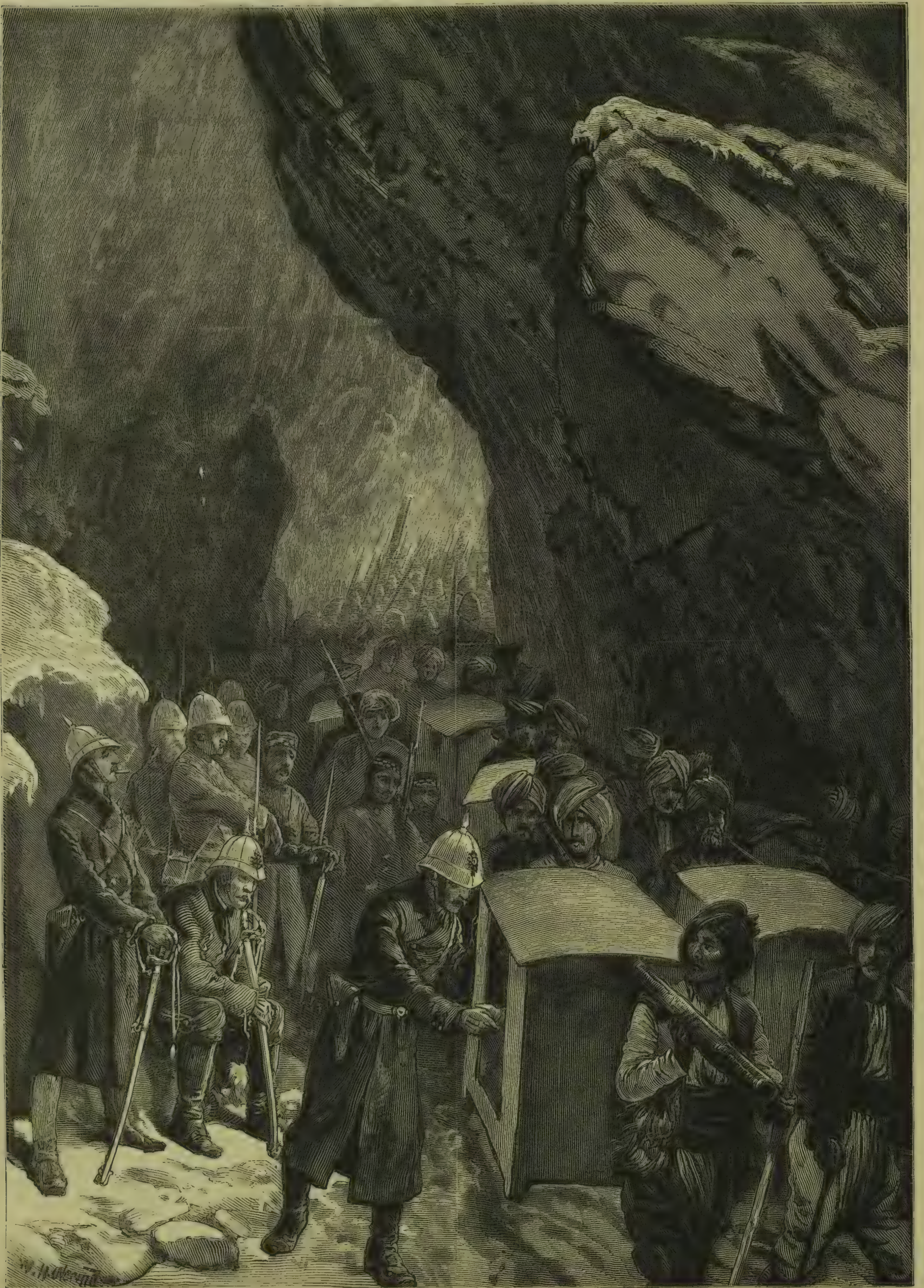
A Civil List pension of the value of £75 per annum, according to the *Leeds Mercury*, has been awarded to Miss Anne Sydney Turner, the daughter of the late Rev. Sydney Turner, Inspector of Reformatories, whose services in developing the uses of Industrial and Reformatory Schools were very inadequately acknowledged during his lifetime.

The Mayor of Leicester presided at a largely-attended meeting of the leading inhabitants, on the 15th inst., with the object of forming a permanent gallery of art for Leicester. A long debate took place as to the constitution of the committee and its representative character. Eventually a resolution in favour of the establishment of a permanent gallery was carried, with six dissentients; £1000 was subscribed, and a number of paintings were promised.

Further experiments with the 38-ton Thunderer gun took place yesterday week at Woolwich. Two rounds were fired, each with a wad five feet in advance of the shot, in order to ascertain whether it was possible for a displaced wad to jam the shot and thereby burst the gun. In the first round the wad was placed aslant, and in the second it was fixed upright; but in neither instance did the gun suffer any damage. The sanction of the Secretary of State to the crucial trial of a double charge is now awaited, and in about a fortnight the work of the committee which has been conducting these tests will probably be completed.

SKETCHES IN AFGHANISTAN, BY OUR SPECIAL ARTIST.

SEE PAGE 89.

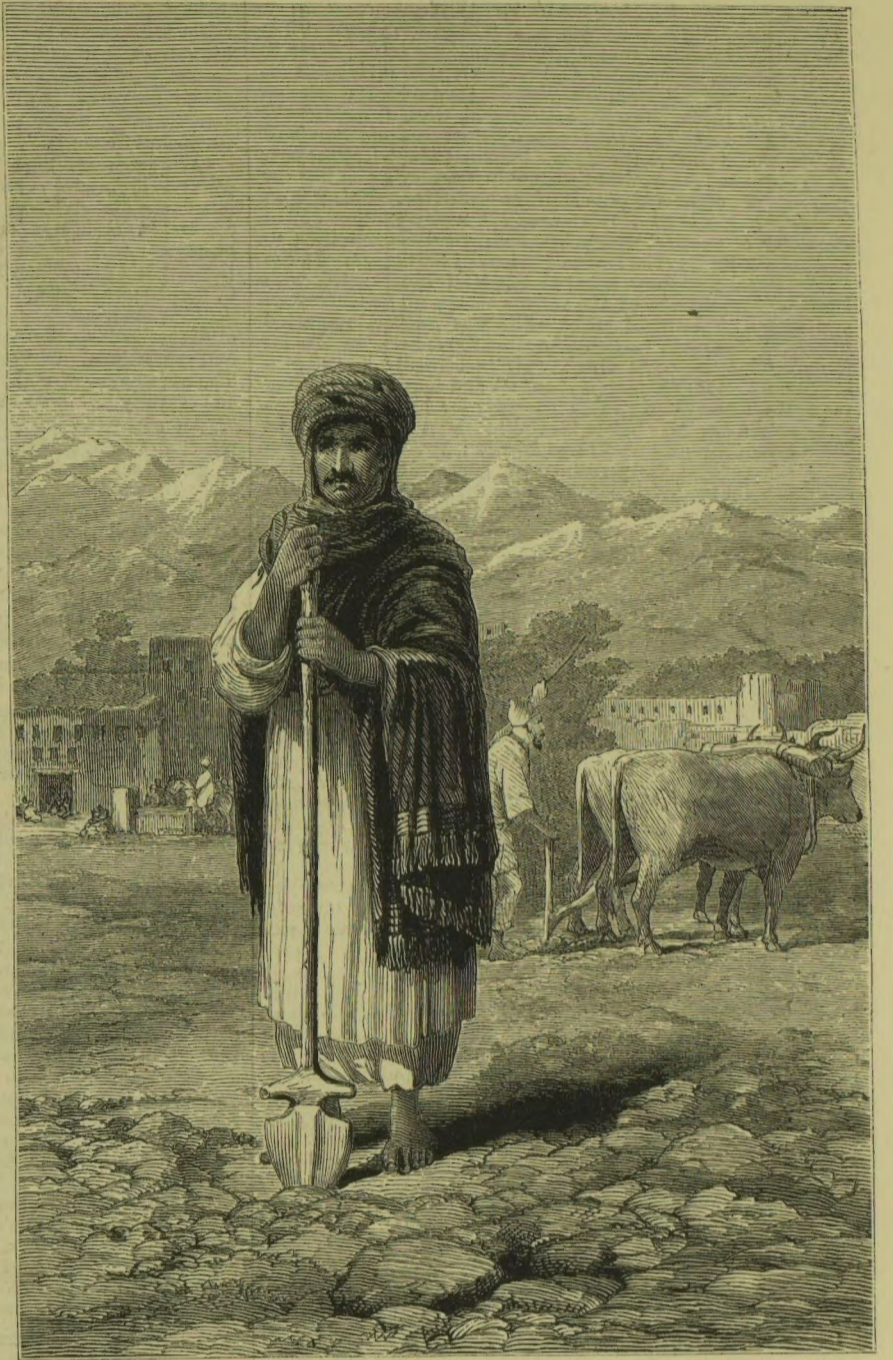


HOSPITAL DHOOLIES IN THE JUGDULLUK PASS.

SKETCHES IN AFGHANISTAN, BY OUR SPECIAL ARTIST.
SEE PAGE 89.



THE MINAR CHAKRI, NEAR CABUL.



AN AFGHAN AGRICULTURIST.



THE OLD BRIDGE ON THE SURKHAB, OR RED RIVER.

MUSIC.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

An English version of the late Hermann Goetz's "Der Widerspanstigen Zähmung" ("The Taming of the Shrew") was produced on Tuesday evening. Of the work itself we spoke at some length in reference to its production (also in English) at Drury Lane Theatre, in 1878, when it had not the same advantages in representation as on the occasion now referred to. As before, the text used was that adapted by the Rev. J. Troutbeck. A prominent feature in Tuesday's cast was the performance of Miss Minnie Hauk as Katherine. This was on a par with the same lady's admirable representation of the character of Carmen, which has for several seasons been so marked a feature in the Italian versions of that opera. In the Shakspearean part now referred to, Miss Hauk acted with admirable realisation of the various phases of the character, and sang with brilliant effect. She was greatly applauded in several instances, particularly after the delivery of the air in the second act, "I'll give myself" (encored); the song in the last act, "My strength is spent"; and that at the close of the opera, an addition written specially for her by the composer only a few days before his death. Miss Georgina Burns was a graceful representative of Bianca; Mr. Walton Bolton (as in the Drury-Lane performance) gave full force to the character and the music of Petruchio; Mr. L. Crotty and Mr. F. C. Packard were efficient as Hortensio and Lucentio; Mr. Snazelle was a very satisfactory Baptista, and Mr. C. Lyall was quaint in the small part of the Tailor. The band and chorus were, as usual, excellent; and the performance was ably conducted by Mr. Randegger. Clever as the music is—especially in the skilful orchestral writing—it was impossible not to feel, as before, that the general tone is too serious for a comic opera.

The repetition of "Mignon" yesterday (Friday) week included the transference of the part of Frederick to Miss Josephine Yorke, with advantage to the general effect.

Last Saturday evening Balfe's opera "The Bohemian Girl" was given for the first time this season, with the clever performance of Miss Georgina Burns as Arline, and other features of the cast as before, including Mr. Joseph Maas as Thaddeus (in lieu of Mr. F. C. Packard, who was indisposed), Mr. Snazelle as Devilshoof, Mr. C. Lyall as Florestine, and Mr. Ludwig as Count Arnheim. The part of the Gipsy Queen was assigned to Miss C. Wilmers, of whose merits we must await another opportunity to speak. Mr. John Pew conducted on this occasion. The house was crowded, and some hundreds could not gain admission.

The Saturday afternoon Popular Concert of last week brought back Dr. Hans von Bülow, who played as his solo piece the last of the set of six "Suites Anglaises," by Bach. The elaborate and masterly Prelude and the following shorter pieces in dance style, were rendered with admirable alternation of power, grandeur, and delicacy. The applause at the close called the player back, and was responded to by the performance of another piece by Bach. In Beethoven's great Pianoforte Trio in B flat (op. 97) and in Schubert's fine Rondo in B minor for piano and violin Dr. von Bülow likewise displayed his exceptional powers. Mendelssohn's posthumous string quartet in E flat (composed when he was about fourteen) was repeated, with even more success than attended its first performance, as recently noticed. Madame Norman-Néruda was the leading violinist, and Signor Piatti the violoncellist, the intermediate instruments of the quartet having been sustained, as usual, by Mr. L. Ries and Mr. Zerbini, the latter of whom accompanied the vocal pieces, Gounod's "The Worker" and Mendelssohn's "Spring Song," which were very expressively sung by Miss Annie Marriott.

Last week's London Ballad Concert—the first evening performance of the new year—included several effective new songs:—Cotsford Dick's "Dolly Varden," Mr. Diehl's "The Lights of London Town," Stephen Adams's "Good Company," and A. H. Behrend's "My Friend," the singers having been, respectively, Miss Mary Davies, Miss Orridge, Mr. E. Lloyd, and Mr. Santley, from all of whom the pieces received a worthy interpretation. Mr. Sims Reeves sang, with his usual effect, Blumenthal's "My Queen" and Hatten's "Good-bye, Sweetheart," besides having been associated with Madame Trebelli in Verdi's duet, "Si la stanchezza." The lady just named, Misses Davies, A. Marriott, and Orridge, Messrs. Lloyd, Santley, Hollins, and Maybrick, also contributed other pieces to a varied programme, which likewise included some good part-singing by the London Vocal Union, and some brilliant pianoforte playing by Miss Bessie Richards. The encores were, as usual, numerous.—The programme of this week's concert included a copious selection of Irish songs.

The repetition of Rossini's "Moses in Egypt" by the Sacred Harmonic Society yesterday (Friday) week calls for but brief notice—although an excellent performance—as the details were identical with those of some previous occasions, the solo vocalists having been Madame L. Sherrington, Miss Julia Elton, Mdle. Enquist, Mr. E. Lloyd, Mr. Cummings, Mr. Santley, Mr. Bridson, Mr. Hilton, and Mr. Wallace Wells. Sir Michael Costa conducted, as usual, and Mr. Willing's absence was supplied by a deputy at the organ.

The fifth concert of the ninth season of the Royal Albert Hall Choral Society, directed by Mr. Barnby, took place on Thursday evening, when the programme consisted of Verdi's "Requiem" and Rossini's "Stabat Mater," with Misses Anna Williams and De Fonblanque, Mr. E. Lloyd, and Herr Henschel as solo vocalists.

The concert given by the London Sunday-School Choir in the Albert Hall last week was honoured by the presence of the Duke and Duchess of Teck and their daughter, the Princess Victoria, attended by Lady Caroline Cust and Colonel Greville. The object of the association is the improvement of part-singing among Sunday-school teachers and scholars and the cultivation of Christian union among Sunday-school workers of all denominations. Out of a full strength of 8431 members, from 167 schools in London, 1600 voices of children and adults were assembled in the orchestra, and Mr. Luther Hinton conducted. In the first part of the programme, consisting of sacred music, William Jackson's "Te Deum" was very well given. "Praise ye the Lord" (W. F. Sherwin) and "The World's Jubilee" (Harrison) were encored. Of the miscellaneous music constituting the second part, the Tyne-side song "Weel may the keel row," "Hark, the Bells," "The March of the Men of Harlech," and the "Laughing Chorus," all given with good effect, were re-demanded. Arrangements are being made for the celebration in London in June next of the centenary of the foundation of Sunday Schools in this county by Robert Raikes.

An orchestral and vocal concert is to take place this (Saturday) evening at St. James's Hall, in celebration of the anniversary of Burns's birthday. Several of our most eminent vocalists are announced, and the programme is entirely of a national character, including the late Howard Glover's cantata "Tam o' Shanter," in which Mr. Sims Reeves is to sing. A full band and a numerous chorus will be assembled, the Scottish Choral Society co-operating.

A new series of the excellent orchestral concerts conducted by Herr Richter and led by Herr Franke is to begin, at St. James's Hall, on May 10, to be followed by eight more evening performances, the dates of which are May 20, 24, 27, and 31, June 3, 7, 10, and 14.

The performances hitherto known as the New "Philharmonic Concerts" will be continued this year (again at St. James's Hall), under changed management, as "Mr. Ganz's Orchestral Concerts."

Arrangements have been made with Mr. Charles Hallé to give two orchestral concerts in St. James's Hall, on Tuesday (afternoon and evening), March 9, when he will conduct his celebrated orchestra of eighty-two performers. The programmes will include Beethoven's Eroica Symphony, Beethoven's symphony in A (No. 7), Schubert's symphony in C, and Brahms's symphony in D (No. 2).

Madame Arabella Goddard is about to establish an academy, at Steinway Hall, for the instruction of lady pupils—amateur and professional—in pianoforte playing, solo and concerted. The advantages of studying under such a highly-skilled artist can scarcely fail to be widely appreciated.

An afternoon concert was given on Wednesday (by permission of C. J. Freake, Esq.) in the Townhall, Twickenham, in aid of the funds of the Workmen's Club and Institute of Holy Trinity Church. The concert was under the patronage of the Duke and Duchess of Connaught and Prince Leopold, and included the co-operation of several eminent vocalists, professionals, and amateurs.

Madame Viard-Louis's first matinée of chamber music took place at Steinway Hall, on Thursday, with a varied and interesting programme, including her own pianoforte performances, solo and concerted.

Dr. Hans von Bülow is to give a pianoforte recital at St. James's Hall, on Wednesday afternoon next.

Princess Louise (Marchioness of Lorne), at the conclusion of the concert given by Mrs. Gould last week at the Steinway Hall, in aid of the funds for the Victoria Hospital for Children, congratulated her upon the success of the concert, which realised more than £70.

At the recent Oswestry Musical Festival the chief competition—i.e., the best rendering of Handel's double chorus "He gave them hailstones," from "Israel in Egypt," for which three choirs entered—viz., Acrefair Philharmonic Society, Oswestry Choral Society, and the Llanfyllin Choral Union, to the latter was awarded the prize of £15 and a silver medal.

The Duchess of Teck gave her patronage to a concert in aid of the Infant Nursery, Fencelon-road, Kensington, which took place on Friday evening, the 16th inst., in the Kensington Vestry-hall. The concert was superior to the average of such entertainments for local institutions, a varied and well-selected programme being most efficiently given.

At a meeting of the Leeds Musical Festival Committee, yesterday week, it was stated that the works selected for performance include the new oratorio to be written by Mr. Arthur Sullivan, entitled "David and Jonathan," Mendelssohn's "Elijah," Handel's "Samson," Haydn's "Creation" (Parts I. and II.), Spohr's "Last Judgment," Barnett's new cantata, "The Building of the Ship," Bennett's "May Queen," "Mendelssohn's psalm, "When Israel out of Egypt came," and Beethoven's "Choral Symphony" (No. 9). The committee have renewed their correspondence with Herr Raff, from whom they hope to obtain an original orchestral work to represent the modern German school at the festival.

THEATRES.

Two revivals have distinguished the week's performances; one at the Olympic and the other at the Folly. At the former the farcical comedy of Messrs. Bronson Howard and Frank Marshall, named "Brighton," originally produced at the Court, where it long enjoyed a decided success, has again proved acceptable to an average audience. The piece is signalised by its eccentricity, and prevails on account of its absurdity. The interest is centred in its hero, Robert Sackett, who makes love to every woman with whom he becomes acquainted, a character which exactly suits Mr. Charles Wyndham, who, by his volatile manners, reconciles the spectator to the incoherences both of word and act. The other characters are personated with skill and spirit. This drama is preceded by a two-act farce, entitled "My Enemy," written by Mr. R. Reece, and nearly as funny as the more elaborate drama that follows. The hero is a certain superstitious individual, named Miserimus Omen, to whose delusions Mr. E. Righton gives effectually the aid of his talents, much to the amusement of the audience. The change made in the programme is total and absolute, and may conduce to the success of the house, which has of late had to struggle with public apathy.

The revival at the Folly is a morning performance of Mr. H. J. Byron's "Cyril's Success," in which the author himself sustained the part of Matthew Pincher, the literary hack, in a manner which made every cynical remark tell with a demonstrative power. Miss Emily Thorne was Pamela Grannett, the schoolmistress, and, in the great scene with Pincher, admirably realised the situation. The comedy itself has remarkable merits, and is very efficiently represented throughout. The appearance of Mr. J. L. Toole is shortly expected.

A day representation of "Les Cloches de Corneville" was given at the Globe on Wednesday, as the result of its success.

A committee has been formed, consisting of Messrs. Bancroft, H. J. Byron, Henry Irving, W. H. Kendal, E. Terry, J. L. Toole, and other well-known actors, for the purpose of presenting to Mr. Edward Ledger, editor and proprietor of the *Era*, a piece of plate, in recognition of the manner in which, through the pages of the *Era*, he has defended the best interests of the dramatic profession, and as a permanent record of sympathy with him in his recent trial for libel.

Many of the children employed in the theatres in which pantomimes are now being played accepted Mr. W. Forbes's invitation to a tea in Exeter Hall on Tuesday. The repast over, several hymns were sung and two addresses given. These children were representatives of dancers, gipsies, Zulus, Egyptians, soldiers, peasants, fish of different kinds, millers, oysters, spiders, silver knights, demons, &c. Before they left Mr. Forbes gave them another invitation.

The accounts of the benefit lately given at the Lyceum Theatre to Mr. William Belford show a sum of £1022 14s. 6d., with which an annuity is to be purchased, with a reversion to his sister.

The Westbourne Amateur Dramatic and Musical Society gave an evening concert in aid of the sufferers by the Tay Bridge disaster, at Westbourne Hall, on Thursday evening.

The *Leeds Mercury* states that Messrs. E. and H. Lumley have sold the town of Little-borough-by-Rochdale, containing about seventy-four acres, with a population of nearly 10,000. The purchaser is a Yorkshire gentleman.

The Extra Supplement.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL.

The three spires of this stately ecclesiastical edifice have often struck the eye of the London and North-Western Railway passenger. Its west front, with its successively rising arcades and canopies, in which appear many statues, only reproduced in cement to imitate the former decorations of sculptured stone, forms the subject of our large Engraving, drawn by Mr. S. Read. A Bishop's see was founded at this town, for the Saxon kingdom and diocese of Mercia, in the middle of the seventh century. St. Chad, more correctly named Ceadda, was the second Bishop, following Joruman, who began the pious office at Lichfield after the overthrow of heathen King Penda. The sees of Worcester, Hereford, and Lincoln were carved out of this great Midland English diocese before the Norman Conquest, and that of Oxford at a later period. Coventry was for some time the rival of Lichfield as its episcopal seat; till it was arranged, in the thirteenth century, that the Bishop should be elected alternately by the monks and canons of these two places, and should be called "Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry." The Decorated Gothic architecture of the cathedral nave, and of the Lady Chapel, are due to Bishop Walter Langton, from 1296 to 1321, who was keeper of the Great Seal and Lord High Treasurer in the reign of Edward II., but much out of favour at Court. The choir, of Early English style, is a hundred years older, and the transepts correspond with it. This fine edifice suffered grievously from the violence of the Commonwealth soldiery in the Civil Wars; as Sir Walter Scott says of it,

When fanatic Brooke
The fair Cathedral spoiled and took;
Though, thanks to Heaven and good St. Chad,
A guerdon meet the spoiler had.

It is a fact that Lord Brooke, who commanded the army besieging Lichfield, in March, 1643, was shot dead, by a deaf and dumb brother of Sir Richard Dyott, from the Cathedral spire. The town was captured, however, three days afterwards, when the interior of the Cathedral was gutted, the tombs, stalls, organ, and windows destroyed in wanton mischief. About six weeks later, the Royalist army of Prince Rupert took Lichfield again from the Puritans, and King Charles was there in 1645, after his defeat at Naseby. Restorations were attempted in modern times, and the Cathedral is now enriched with beautiful works of carved wood, metal, and encaustic tiles, as well as plaster copies of the ancient sculpture. The late Bishop, the Right Rev. Dr. Selwyn, who had been very notable as Bishop of New Zealand, was succeeded two years ago by the Right Rev. Dr. W. D. Maclagan, formerly Rector of St. Mary Abbot's, Kensington.

AGRICULTURE.

The Devonshire Chamber of Agriculture held its annual meeting yesterday week, Earl Fortescue occupying the chair. The report expressed a hope that good County Government and Valuation Bills would be passed during the ensuing Session of Parliament, as there was urgent need of both. It also considered that in fairness additional facility and economy in the transport of produce might be accorded to the British farmer; and, while the Chamber had no desire to reverse the policy of free trade, it protested against the bounty given the foreigner by railway companies in the shape of reduced rates. The report was adopted, and Earl Fortescue re-elected president.

The official list of prizes for agricultural implements, machinery, &c., to be competed for at the forthcoming show of the Royal Agricultural Society at Carlisle, has been issued. The judges are empowered to award gold and silver medals to any implements and machines for the cultivation of the land by steam or other mechanical force which, in the opinion of the stewards and judges, are new inventions, and have not been previously submitted to trial by the society. The gold medals will be awarded only in cases of special merit, and for implements and machinery likely to be practically useful. The society also offer ten silver medals, the award of which the judges may recommend in cases of sufficient merit in new implements. The judges are further empowered to make special awards of medals for efficient modes of guarding or shielding machinery, especially when working by steam, from contact with persons immediately engaged in attending to such machinery while at work. With a view of bringing the machinery yard within moderate compass, it has been decided that the maximum size of stands be 150 ft., and that the charge for space in the miscellaneous department be double that hitherto in force.

At Worcester on Saturday last it was stated that the meeting of the Bath and West of England Society would be held at Worcester this year, and, in consequence, the Worcestershire Society would suspend their own annual meeting and offer £254 for local competition at the Bath and West of England Show.

Arrangements are being made for holding several meetings of the Farmers' Alliance in different counties. On Feb. 14 a meeting will be held at Norwich, at which Mr. Henry Birkbeck has promised to preside. It is also proposed to hold meetings shortly at Burton-on-Trent, Reading, Spalding, York or Wakefield, Bury St. Edmunds, Winchester, Lewes, Salisbury, and Newark-on-Trent. At the Lincolnshire meeting the Marquis of Huntly has consented to preside.

Messrs. Vernon and Son, of High Wycombe, agents to Lord Beaconsfield, have informed his Lordship's tenantry that, in consideration of the exceptional agricultural difficulties of the times, they are prepared to grant an indulgence as to time of payment of rent and an abatement amounting to 20 per cent on the half-year's rents. This is the third successive half year in which special indulgence has been shown by Lord Beaconsfield to the tenantry on his Bucks estates.

The Marquis of Northampton, at his half-yearly audit last week, again returned to his tenants 10 per cent on their half-year's rent due Michaelmas last, and intimated his intention of allowing a like reduction on the present year, with an additional 5 per cent upon the amount expended for cake or other feeding stuffs purchased during that time.

Mr. G. W. Gunning, of Horton, has also for a second time returned his tenants 10 per cent on their half-year's rent.

At Lord Leigh's rent audit on the 15th, a return of rent was made, averaging from 12 to 13 per cent. In accordance with his Lordship's promise, this return of rent will be repeated for two years.

Major Kirke, of Markham Hall, Tuxford, after postponing the half-yearly rent audit due in September last until the present month, has returned 10 per cent to all his tenants.

The cost to the county of Lancaster in 1879 in respect to the compensation paid for the compulsory slaughter of cattle and swine, under the provisions of the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act, was about £4200.

OBITUARY.

MR. TORR, M.P.

John Torr, Esq., of Carlett Park, Cheshire, J.P., M.P. for Liverpool, died on the 16th inst., at his residence near Eastham, aged sixty-seven. He was born in October, 1813, the second son of the late William Torr, Esq., of Riby Grove, Lincolnshire, by Catherine, his wife, daughter of Thomas Brooks, Esq. Mr. Torr was formerly a merchant in Liverpool, for which town he was first elected to Parliament in 1873, and again in 1874, in the Conservative interest. He was prominently connected with several important public companies. He married, 1845, Louisa, daughter of James Dempsey, Esq., of Liverpool, and by her, who died 1868, leaves, besides others, a son, the Rev. William Edward Torr, M.A., Trinity College, Cambridge.

MAJOR-GENERAL SCUDAMORE.

Major-General Arthur Scudamore, C.B., died on the 11th inst., at Darmstadt, aged sixty-three. He entered the Army in 1835, and saw much active service in India. He was through the campaign in Afghanistan in 1838 and 1839, including the siege and capture of Ghuznee, and also the Punjab campaign, during which he was at Chillianwallah and Goojerat, besides many other important actions. He afterwards was engaged in various affairs in Central India, and commanded a flying column in the Gwalior and Jhansi districts. He attained the rank of Major-General in 1875, and had received medals and clasps, and a distinguished service reward.

MR. THOMAS LANDSEER, A.R.A.

This eminent engraver died on the 20th inst. at his residence in St. John's-wood, at the advanced age of eighty-six. Mr. Landseer, whose father was a distinguished engraver, was the eldest of three brothers. Sir Edwin, the youngest, died first, and Charles died only a few months ago. Mr. Landseer excelled especially in a mixed style of engraving, and his brother Edwin's works rendered in his style have never been surpassed for beauty and fidelity of execution. Mr. Landseer was enabled to continue the exercise of his art until the last two or three months, one of his last works being from a study of a lion made by Sir Edwin for the Nelson column, and this has been finished with singular skill. It is said that some of the charities connected with Art will receive munificent legacies under his will.

THE LORD MAYOR OF YORK.

The Right Hon. Thomas Samuel Watkinson, Lord Mayor of York, died at the Mansion House of that city on the 10th inst., after a short illness. He carried on an extensive business in York, where he acquired considerable property, and was elected to the mayoralty in November last.

The following deaths have also been announced:—

Kate, Lady Brady, widow of Sir Francis Brady, formerly Chief Justice of Newfoundland, and daughter of D. Lynch, Esq., of Dublin, on the 16th inst., at Bayswater.

Joshua Henry Porter, Officiating Deputy Surgeon-General Cabul Field Force, on the 9th inst., at Sherpur, Afghanistan. He was formerly a Professor at Netley Hospital, and attached to the 97th Regiment.

John William Tottie, Esq., of Coniston Hall, Craven, Yorkshire, J.P., barrister-at-law, on the 14th inst., in his sixty-ninth year. He was only son of the late Thomas William Tottie, Esq., of Leeds.

Philip Edward Pusey, Esq., M.A., only son of the Rev. Edward Pusey, D.D., Regius Professor of Hebrew, Canon of Christ Church, on the 15th inst., at Christ Church, Oxford, after a few hours' illness.

Lieutenant-Colonel John Braithwaite Bonham, formerly of the 50th Regiment, on the 7th inst., at St. Leonard's-on-Sea, aged sixty-eight. He served much in India, including the battles of Moodkee, Ferozeshah, Aliwal, and Sobraon, and had the medal and three clasps. He retired in 1852.

Baron Louis Alexander von Düring, General in the British service, on the 7th inst., at his residence near Horneburg, in his ninety-seventh year. He entered the Army so far back as 1795, and served in the Peninsula, for which he had the war medal and seven clasps. Latterly he resided on the family property in Hanover.

James Mellor Smethurst, Esq., M.A., barrister-at-law, at Rookwood, Chorley, on the 29th ult., aged fifty-two. Educated at Shrewsbury School, he graduated at Trinity College, Cambridge, and was called to the Bar in the Inner Temple in 1851. In 1866 he published a "Treatise on Locus Standi," which rapidly gained favour as a text-book.

The Hon. Mrs. Henry Byng, on the 11th inst., at Farmwood, Sunninghill, while on a visit to her aunt, the Marchioness of Ailesbury. She was the eldest daughter of his Excellency Count Christian Danneskiold Samsoe, and was married, Oct. 15, 1863, to the Hon. Henry William John Byng, Esq., Equerry in Ordinary to the Queen, second son of the Earl of Strafford.

Colonel Francis Le Blanc, on the 7th inst., at Blackbrook House, Fareham, in his ninetieth year. He entered the Army in 1807, and served in the Walcheren Expedition, in the Peninsula, and at Waterloo. He was at the battles of Corunna, Fuentes d'Onor, Salamanca, and Vittoria, and siege of Badajoz and St. Sebastian. He had the war medal with six clasps and the Waterloo medal.

The Rev. Francis Pooley Roupell, M.A., Rector of Walton-on-the-Hill, Surrey, on the 16th inst., at 17, Bryanston-street, Portman-square. He was third son of George Boone Roupell, Esq., of Chatham Park, Sussex, a Master in Chancery, by Frances-Browne, his wife, daughter of Robert McCulloch, Esq., of Charlton, Kent; and was married to Susan Elizabeth, daughter of James C. Fyler, Esq., of Woodlands.

Sophia Elizabeth, Dowager Lady Wrottesley, on the 13th inst., aged eighty-six. Her Ladyship was the third daughter of Thomas Giffard, Esq., of Chillington Hall, Staffordshire, and was married, July 28, 1821, to John, second Lord Wrottesley, distinguished in science, and for many years President of the Royal Society, who died in 1867. Lady Wrottesley was mother of the present Lord Wrottesley, and had four other sons and two daughters.

Egidia, Lady Rendlesham, on the 13th inst., at Rendlesham Hall, Suffolk, aged thirty-six. She was the only daughter of Archibald William, Earl of Eglinton and Winton, K.T., twice Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, by Theresa, widow of Commander Richard Howe Cockerell, R.N., and was sister to the present Earl of Eglinton. Her Ladyship was married, July 4, 1861, to the present Lord Rendlesham, and leaves a young family of three sons and five daughters.

Frederick Manning, Esq., of Byron Lodge, Leamington, brother of his Eminence Cardinal Manning, on the 15th inst., at Leamington, in his eighty-fourth year. He was the eldest son of the late William Manning, Esq., of Combebank, Sevenoaks, M.P., Governor of the Bank of England, by Mary, his wife, daughter of Henry Hunter, Esq., of Beech Hill, Reading. He married, 1819, Elizabeth Edmunda, daughter of Edmund Turner, Esq., M.P., of Stoke Rochford, Lincolnshire.

CHESS.

BEGINNER (Lyndhurst).—If the mistake was discovered before four moves on each side was made, the moves must be retraced and the King moved out of check.

NOVICE.—One of the Knights cannot be moved without discovering Check to the White King, and the other Knight cannot be played to K B 2nd because that square is occupied by a piece of the same colour.

A B S (Telford).—This column is made up on the Saturday, and only communications received on or before that day can appear the following week. Your programme was delivered too late for our last issue.

J M E (Edinburgh).—There is no general desire for an alteration of the chess notation now in use in England, and a book upon the subject would have no interest.

W G (Westminster).—Your explanation of the advanced White Pawn is noted.

G J (Rotherham).—The answer to your suggested move is 1. R takes Kt, and there is then no mate on the following move.

O P Q (Brighton).—We will look at the position and give you an opinion.

G E (Liverpool).—See solution of No. 1872, below. Only correct solutions are acknowledged, because acknowledgment of the others would almost fill our column, to the exclusion of other matter.

H T Y (Staplehurst).—Thanks for the corrected position. The other is acceptable.

W T R (Westbourne).—The solutions may be written on any plain paper.

R S (Newcastle).—Problem No. 1871 cannot be solved by 1. B to B 5th, as you will find upon re-examination.

CORRECT SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEM No. 1871 received from P le Page, R H Brooks, M D B, W S Leest, and Norman Rumbelow.

CORRECT SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEM No. 1872 received from Bolteridge, W S Leest, M D B, J W W, G C Baxter, W T R, and F A Bright.

CORRECT SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEM No. 1873 received from H B, H Langford, B I Dyke, E L S, C Darragh, H Barrett, E Elsbury, G Foshbrook, T Greenbank, C S Cox, N Cator, Ben Nevis, S Farnant, D Templeton, G L Mayne, Kitten, Helen Lee, Nerina, Jupiter Jun., H Brewster, M O Halloran, D W Kell, R Ingersoll, N Warner, R Gray, R Jessop, Smith, Norman Rumbelow, P le Page, Dr P St, Arthur H G Aske (aged eleven), Alpha, M D B, W S Leest, W J Humble, R H Brooks, R F N Banks, L Niven (Sweden), E L G, Sweneycliff, Lilly and Comrade, Emma Hedley, Leicester, James Dolson, J W W, A R Julia Short, J R Dow, G C Baxter, H G Perceval, W B Wood, East Marden, W M Curtis, Pops, F S (Hampstead), George Clarke, Orazio, W C D Smith, Thorpe Reading-Brown, C G L, Z Ingold, Coplanino, Problematicus, Bryanston Chess Club, E P Villiamy, Shadforth, Cant, F A Bright, and Hereward.

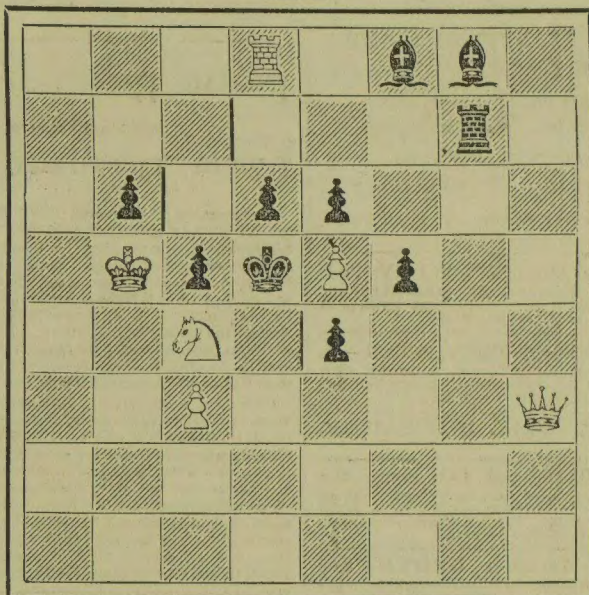
SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 1872.

WHITE. BLACK.
1. P to K B 4th B to B 3rd*
2. R to Q 5th (ch) K or B takes R
3. Q mates
*1. K to Kt 5th, then 2. R to Q R 6th, &c.

PROBLEM No. 1875.

By H. E. KIDSON.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play, and mate in three moves.

A Game played in the Tourney for the Lowenthal prize at the City of London Chess Club between Messrs. HEYWOOD and PIPER.
(Irregular Opening.)

WHITE (Mr. H.)	BLACK (Mr. P.)	WHITE (Mr. H.)	BLACK (Mr. P.)
1. P to K B 4th	P to Q 4th	P to B 3rd, Q to B 2nd, or even Kt to B 3rd	would have been better than the move in the text.
2. P to K 3rd	P to K Kt 3rd		
3. Kt to K B 3rd	P to Kt 2nd		
4. B to K 2nd	Kt to K R 3rd		
5. Kt to B 3rd	B to B 4th		
Having played the Kt to R 3rd, he should now have continued with P to K B 3rd, with the view of posting the Kt at B 2nd.			
6. P to Q Kt 3rd	Kt to Q 2nd		
7. R to Q Kt sq	P to Q B 3rd		
8. Kt to K R 4th	P to K 3rd		
9. Kt takes B	Kt takes Kt		
10. Castles	Castles		
11. B to Kt 2nd	P to Q 5th		
12. Kt to K 4th	P takes P		
13. B takes B	K takes B		
14. P to K Kt 4th			
If 14. P takes P Black has a good reply in Q to Kt 3rd.			
15. P takes P	Kt to Kt 3rd		
There does not appear to be any satisfactory line of play for Black at this juncture, although either P to K 4th, Black resigned; for if now 27. K takes P, then 28. R takes P (ch), and wins.			

DELTA'S REMINISCENCES.

Lowenthal told me in April, 1852, that he had played about a score of games with Staunton, during the autumn and winter of 1851-2, and that the English champion had won in the ratio of two to one. In June, 1852, Staunton visited me, and we played together for about a fortnight. He was not a mere chess-player, who could talk of nothing but gambits, openings, problems, end positions, &c., but a man of rich and varied culture. He had a wonderful knowledge of Shakespeare, as he proved afterwards by his notes on that poet. His visit was a very pleasant one to me, and, also, I believe, to himself. It was his first visit to Scotland, and he was delighted with the "land of cakes." He used to say, as he walked about and inhaled the fresh mountain air, that it was like quaffing nectar, after, perforce, inhaling the sooty atmosphere of London and its suburbs! He asked me to try the game at odds of Pawn and Queen with him, as he had been playing successfully at these odds with some of the best English players. His play at these odds was something wonderful, and his resource in difficult positions was truly admirable. No chessmaster ever played better at these odds, and very few so well. Staunton won the first six games. The simple explanation of this extraordinary feat on his part was, not only his admirable play at his favourite debut, which he had practised studiously for years, but also my utter ignorance of the opening. Having these odds given to me, I played precipitately, pushed forward prematurely my centre Pawn, and so enabled my antagonist to break my line at the first flaw in the attack. I altered my tactics after these games, drew the next five, and won the last four. Staunton then frankly acknowledged that I had got quite over these odds, and that he would play me equal had time permitted. We had only one game equal, a "Giucio Piano," which ought to have been drawn, but which I lost at last by a stupid blunder or oversight. Five of these games at odds were published in the *Chessplayer's Chronicle*. I thought at the time that the drawn games were by far the best of the lot, as I had then got into the right style of play at these odds, and did not try, as I did at first, to force the victory by *coup de main*; and that down upon me like an extinguisher the very first moment that I lowered my point.

THE COUNTIES CHESS ASSOCIATION.

The meeting of the Counties Chess Association was opened at Boston on Monday, the 19th inst., Mr. Garritt, M.P., who has taken much kindly interest in the success of the gathering, presiding on the occasion. Many of the strongest provincial amateurs were present, and among the competitors in the first-class tourney are Messrs. Coker, De Soyres, Ranken, Rowley, Thorold, and Wayne. Three prizes are offered in this class, value respectively, £10, £4, and £1 10s.; and in the other tourneys prizes will be given in proportion to the number of competitors in each. All the competitions are expected to be brought to a conclusion to-day, and the result will be announced in our next issue. Thanks to the hospitality and liberality of the people of Boston, the meeting promises to be an extremely pleasant one for the visitors.

WILLS AND BEQUESTS.

The will (dated Aug. 19, 1878) with a codicil (dated Nov. 22, 1879) of Mr. Joseph Savory, late of Buckhurst Park, Sunninghill, Berks, who died on the 13th ult., was proved on the 8th inst. by Joseph Bevan Braithwaite, and Joseph Savory and the Rev. Ernest Lloyd Savory, the sons, the executors, the personal estate being sworn under £160,000. The testator leaves to his wife, Mrs. Caroline Mary Savory, £1500 and the Buckhurst estate, with the furniture and effects for life or during widowhood; on her death or second marriage these are to go to his eldest son, Joseph Savory; he also leaves certain real and leasehold property, gas shares, and shares in the Goldsmiths' Alliance upon trust to pay the income to his wife for life or during her widowhood; to his executor Mr. Braithwaite, 200 guineas; and there are special devises and bequests of freehold and leasehold properties, stocks, and shares to each of his children, Joseph, Ernest Lloyd, Arnold Wordsworth, Ethelbert Kerton, Ronald Herbert, Mary Caroline, Mrs. Anna Braithwaite Johnson, and Mary. The residue of his estate he gives to his said eldest son.

The will and codicil (both dated July 26, 1878) of Mr. William Allen Francis Saunders, late of Wennington Hall, near Lancaster, who died on Nov. 5 last, was proved at the Lancaster district registry, on the 10th ult., by Charles Morley Saunders, the son, Hector Christie and Edwin Hodge Banks, the executors, the personal estate being sworn under £90,000. The testator appoints £7000 to his son, George Morley Saunders, and he settles upon him a portion of his real estate at Black Torrington, Devon; the other part of his property at Black Torrington is directed to be sold, and the proceeds are to be added to his residuary personal estate. Portions are provided for his daughters, Mrs. Eleanor Jane Hope and Miss Frances Debonaire Saunders; and legacies given to servants. The residue of the personalty he gives to his son, Charles Morley Saunders, and he settles upon him his real estate in Lancashire and Yorkshire, and all the residue of his real estate. The pictures, plate, and furniture at Wennington Hall are made heirlooms to go with the property.

The will (dated Oct. 3, 1871) with a codicil (dated Sept. 25, 1877) of Mr. Peter Bunnell, late of No. 183, Beckenham-road, Penge, who died on the 13th ult., was proved on the 2nd inst. by Mrs. Hannah Bunnell, the widow, and George Henry May and the Rev. Samuel Savage Lewis, the nephews, the executors, the personal estate being sworn under £60,000. The testator bequeaths to his wife £500 and an annuity of £800 for life; to the London Missionary Society, £200; to the Society for British Missions, £100; to Cheshunt College, £50; to the Christian Instruction Society and the New Orphan Asylum, Reedham, near Croydon, 19 guineas each; and legacies to his daughter, sister, nephews, and nieces. The residue of his real and personal estate is to be held upon trust for his daughter, Mary Elizabeth Bunnell, for life, then for her children, if any, and in default of children to the children of his sister, Mrs. Hannah May, and his late sisters, Mrs. Mary Lewis and Mrs. Elizabeth Lewis.

The will (dated May 1, 1879) of Mr. John Witcombe, late of Albion-grove, Stoke Newington, builder, who died on Nov. 6 last, was proved on the 1st inst. by Mrs. Fanny Frances Barnes and Mrs. Selina Le Gros, the daughters, and Charles Eve, the executors, the personal estate being sworn under £30,000. The testator bequeaths to his executor, Mr. Eve, £100; to his wife, Mrs. Ann Witcombe, his household furniture and effects, and a residence, and £400 per annum for life; to his daughter Elizabeth an annuity of £100 for life; and the residue of his property upon trust for his two daughters, Fanny Frances and Selina, for their lives, and afterwards for his grandchildren.

The will (dated Oct. 1, 1877) of the Hon. Miss Frances Matilda Irby, formerly of Hedsor, Bucks, but late of Shelford House, Upper Norwood, who died on Nov. 25 last, was proved on the 1st inst. by the Hon. and Rev. Llewellyn Charles Robert Irby, the brother, and the Hon. Miss Georgina Albinia Irby, the sister, the acting executors, the personal estate being sworn under £30,000. Among other legacies, the testatrix bequeaths £3333 6s. 8d. Consols upon trust to pay the dividends to her late servant, Mary Davies, for life, then to Louisa Fraser for life, and on the death of the survivor of them the capital sum is to be divided between the Margate Sea-Bathing Infirmary and the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. As to the residue of her property, she leaves one third to her said brother, one third to her said sister, and one third between her nieces, Lady Emily Charlotte Fitzmaurice and Lady Maria Louisa Spearman.

The will (dated Dec. 2, 1878) of Mr. Frederick Allen, late of Kent Villa, No. 83, Finchley-road, who died on the 22nd ult., was proved on the 10th inst. by the Rev. Thomas William Johnson Barker and Frank Sheppard Durham, the executors, the personal estate being sworn under £30,000. The testator bequeaths £100 each to the Linen and Woollen Drapers' Institution, the Milliners' and Dressmakers' Provident Benevolent Institution, the Infirmary at Northampton, and the North London Hospital for Consumption and Diseases of the Chest, Hampstead; and many legacies to relatives and friends. The residue he gives to his sister, Miss Emma Charlotte Allen.

The will (dated Jan. 14, 1877) with a codicil (dated Feb. 4, 1879) of Mr. Samuel Thornton, late of Oakfield Morely, Worcestershire, who died on the 7th ult., was proved on the 30th ult. by Mrs. Elizabeth Smith Thornton, the widow and sole executrix, to whom he gives all his real and personal estate, the personal estate being sworn under £20,000.

The will (dated May 11, 1878) of the Hon. Miss Louisa Eleanor Graves, late of Gravesend House, Torpoint, Cornwall, who died on Sept. 1 last, was proved on the 6th inst. by the Right Hon. Clarence Edward, Lord Graves, the brother, and George William Culme Soltan-Symons, the executors, the personal estate being sworn under £8000.

The will (dated Dec. 8, 1879) of Mr. Duncan MacLachlan Macure, late of No. 34, Harley-street, who died on the 13th ult., was proved on the 9th inst. by Mrs. Jessie Jemima Macure, the widow, and James Alston Carfrae, the acting executors, the personal estate being sworn under £6000.

Seven persons lost their lives and upwards of thirty others sustained injuries in a railway collision at Burscough Junction on Thursday night.

The War Office has promulgated a "memorandum relating to the reorganisation of the clerical establishment of the manufacturing departments under the War Office." The object is gradually to replace the present War Office clerks by writers and military clerks, as a measure of public economy.

Mr. Alderman Henry Shrubsole, of Surbiton Hall, Mayor of Kingston, died whilst presiding on the 15th inst. at a dinner to the aged poor of Kingston, held in the Drill-hall. He was in the act of distributing packages of tea, shortly after the dinner, to each of the poor guests, when he fell into the arms of Mr. Johnson, the relieving officer, who was handing him the tea. The deceased was elected for the third time last November as Mayor of Kingston. He was well known for his great liberality to the poor.

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